

Tribal Council holds November session

The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council held its regular meeting on November 11 prior to the Veterans Ceremony at Tushka Homma.

Council bills on the agenda included:

- a right-of-way for a 10-foot utility easement on tribal lands in favor of Fort Smith, Arkansas, to install a water line;
 - modifications for the fiscal year 2007 Tribal Operations Budget;
 - a grazing lease;
 - an application to the Department of Health and Human Services for a Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant which would assist in providing scholarships and opportunities for students to enter a RN program;
 - and, approval of an application to the Division of Transportation's Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office for bridge replacement money for the Crowder/Blocker road and bridge crossing Lake Eufaula.
- All were approved unanimously.

Annual Livestock Show

The Choctaw Nation will be holding its annual livestock show Saturday, February 3, and Sunday, February 4, in Durant. The show will be held in the Choctaw Nation's North Arena, Hwy. 69/75 N and Choctaw Road.

On Saturday, market swine, market goats and market lambs will be shown. Heifers and steers will be shown on Sunday.

The show is open to all 4-H and FFA members who are 9 to 19 years of age at the time of the show and have a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB). Rules and entry forms will be posted at www.choctawnation.com by December 22, 2006.

Ceremony honors veterans



The colors are presented.

More than 1,100 people gathered at the historic Capitol of the Choctaw Nation to pay tribute to the soldiers of America. Utilizing the base of the War Memorial, which bears the names of 123 Choctaws who were killed in action, for the focal point of the formal ceremony, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Major General Leroy Sisco, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and Tribal Council Speaker Mike Amos addressed the crowd.

Chief Pyle thanked all of the veterans for their service and informed them that an advocate for veterans is now based at the Tribal Complex in Durant. He also mentioned the Choctaw Veterans Association, which came to him a couple of years prior to request a cemetery for fallen soldiers. "This property is now established here on the Capitol Grounds, with a paved roadway and beautiful gates," said Chief Pyle.

"I am extremely proud of all our veterans from all of the branches of the military," said the Chief.

"Our Council, Assistant Chief and myself were highly honored this week. The Smithsonian and Oklahoma History Center combined exhibits to honor the Choctaw World War I Code Talkers. The Choctaw Nation and the Comanche Nation have been to Washington, D.C., several times this year in the process of fighting to get legislation passed to honor the Native American Code Talkers of 18 tribes."

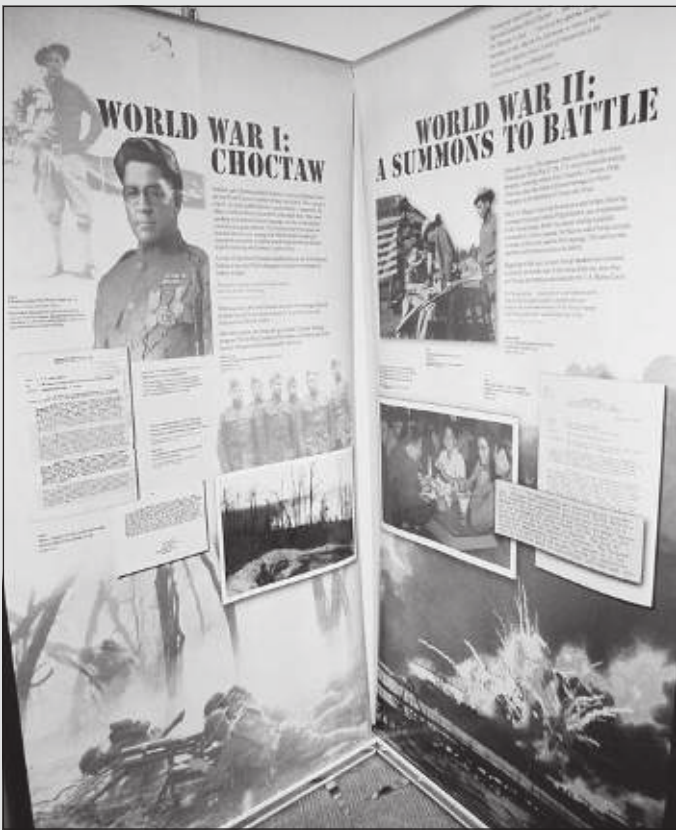
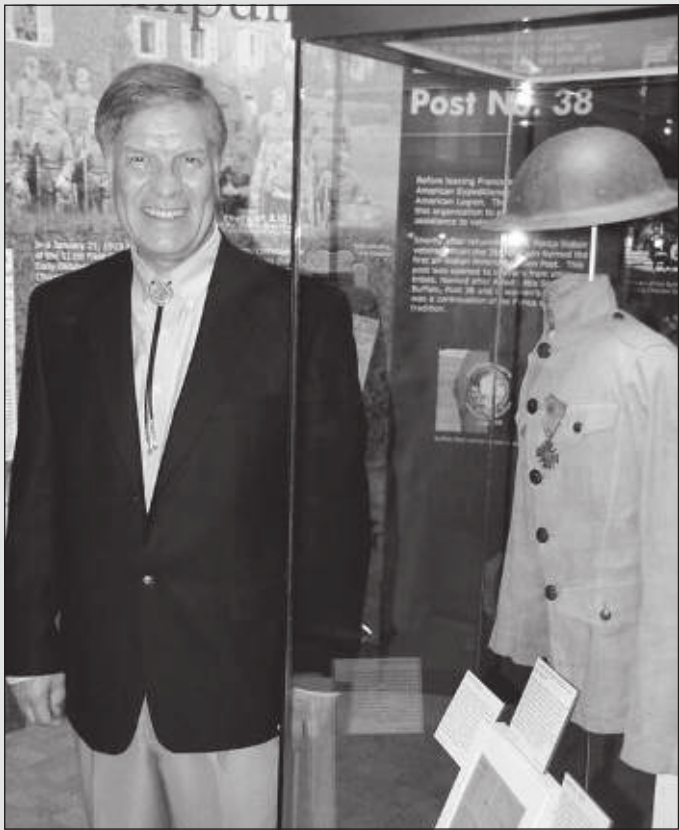
Chief Pyle told how the war effort has spilled over into tribal business. "We have manufacturing plants in Atoka, McAlester and Hugo. We received an e-mail that told us basically, 'Congratulations – you helped build the smart bombs that were used in the bombing of al-Zarqawi.' News articles named Raytheon Tucson as the maker of the bomb used. Choctaw Manufacturing Development Corporation supplies the tail section mentioned in these articles to Raytheon. The tribe has been sole supplier of these since about 1990.

"Veterans, you can really stand tall today," said Chief Pyle.

Speaker Mike Amos said, "As we stand with Choctaw veterans, I want to recognize

See Ceremony on Page 8

'Hidden Voices, Coded Words' tells story of World War I Code Talkers



A National Museum of American Indian traveling exhibit remains open until January 15, 2007, at the Oklahoma History Center in Oklahoma City. See Page 3.

Choctaw executive receives two prestigious Indian health awards

By Jake Dolezal

There are few individuals who have done more for the advocacy and promotion of Indian health than Mickey Peercy. This statement was substantiated on October 12 when Mickey, the Executive Director of Management and Operations of the Choctaw Nation, received the prestigious Jake White Crow Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Indian Health Board at its annual conference in Denver, Colorado. Only one of these awards is given per year – so the honor is particularly noteworthy.

Barely a week later on October 20 in Eureka, California, Mickey was honored with the Lune Wessel Award by the California Rural Indian Health Board for outstanding service to improve the health of American Indians at a national level. Mickey is in good company; the list of individuals who have received this award include

"Dances With Wolves" movie star Kevin Costner and Hawaiian Senator Daniel Inouye.

Stacy Bohlen, Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board, was seen getting a little emotional when they called Mickey's name for the Jake White Crow award.

"Mickey Peercy has been an incredibly strong and consistent supporter over the years," she said. "He is so generous with his knowledge and time. His strength helped the NIHB through some tough times." She went on to reflect some more personal feelings, "He doesn't just say he supports you; he demonstrates it. He has demonstrated a dedication to American Indians and Alaskan Natives for a better life."

Mickey's passion extends not only to Indian health, but tribal self-governance as well. He has fought tooth and nail alongside Chief Gregory E. Pyle to promote the sovereignty of the Choctaw Nation. Mickey believes strongly in self-governance,



Indian Health Board Chair Sally Smith (Alaska) and Vice Chair Buford Rolin (Chairman of Poarch Creek Band of Creek Indians) presenting the Jake White Crow Award to Mickey Peercy.

ance, so the tribe can be self-sufficient and not dependant on the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Service – "living from grant to grant," as he puts it. His reputation precedes him whenever he enters a room of national or tribal leaders, and though at times they don't always agree with him, they respect him. His manner and persistence have made inroads

between the tribe and government. The list of notable people he has the ability to pick up the phone and call is impressive, whether he is securing funding for a grant program or advocating Indian health and governance concerns.

At present, Mickey is involved in numerous national and regional activities, including Chair of the Oklahoma City

Area Inter-Tribal Health Board, Chair of the Southern Plains Epidemiology Center Advisory Committee, Treasurer of the National Indian Health Board, Secretary of the Tribal Technical Advisory Group for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, member of the Tribal Technical Advisory Committee for the Centers of Disease Control, Co-Chair of the Tribal Self-Governance Technical Workgroup, member of the Tribal Self-Governance Consortium, and participant in several other workgroups and committees. Mickey wears many hats, but he wears them all very well.

Mickey also thanks Chief Pyle for the opportunity to make a difference, not just for the Choctaw Nation, but the entire Indian world. Chief gives Mickey his blessing to make such an enormous impact on the national scene. "Chief adjusts my duties here so I can be gone," Mickey says.

Even Ms. Bohlen of the NIHB recognizes this. "We (at

the NIHB) are big fans of Chief Pyle. Mickey is able to do what he does because of the commitment of Chief Pyle and the entire Choctaw Nation to Indian health."

Despite the recognition and all the achievements, you can't get past Mickey's humble spirit. His compassion for helping people began in the roots of his career in social work. He still gets satisfaction in knowing that the work he does nationally trickles down to benefit every Choctaw.

Even with all the accolades and photos with top national dignitaries that line his office, it is easy to guess Mickey's source of greatest pride: his 9-year-old granddaughter, Maggie. "She's the apple of my eye," Mickey says.

When asked if he is looking forward to slowing down some day and spending more time with his granddaughter, he replied with a grin, "Yes. In fact, that's what I'm going to do tonight." That's Mickey for you.

NOTES TO THE NATION

Caring for Choctaws

Dear Chief Pyle,

Even though I'm just 1/16th Choctaw, I would like you all to know how much I appreciate all you do for me. Today is my birthday and yesterday I opened my mail box and to my surprise there was a beautiful birthday card inside. When I first became a member of the Choctaw tribe I was in need of assistance and the tribe gave it willingly, and now that I am standing firmly on my feet I have been trying to help other Choctaws. I just wanted to thank Chief Greg Pyle, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma for all the love you all have shown me on my birthday and Christmas with wonderful cards and for the help in the past. Thank you.

Cecilia Robinson

Looking for info on Emma Jane Self Bottoms

Dear Editor,

My name is Elzora McDonald and I am looking for any information on Emma Jane Self Bottoms. I am asking help from anyone who might have known or have any information about her. My nephew, Peter Smith, is related to this person and would like to find some information out on her. We appreciate all your help. You may contact me at momwerx@msn.com. Thank you.

Looking for info on Tabitha Hickman Ward

Dear Editor,

Tabitha Hickman Ward married Joseph Heavener Jr. of south Hartford in Arkansas, owned land in Choctaw Indian Territory, started a trading post which grew into a larger settlement which was named the town of Heavener after her husband Joseph Heavener in the late 1870-1900's. Anyone having any information on her please contact D. Fassbinder, P.O. Box 426, Elverta, CA 95626. Thank you.

D. Fassbinder

Another chance at life

Dear Choctaw Nation,

My name is Leslie Clay and I have a story of thanks to tell to the Choctaw Nation and several of its employees. Around July 19 my appendix ruptured. Knowing absolutely nothing about this kind of ailment, I withstood the pain for a day and a half. By this time gangrene had set inside of my body. My wife, Becky, struggled and finally got me into our vehicle and drove to the Hugo clinic. Upon arrival I was seen by Dr. Tidwell, whose quick thinking and diagnosis of the problem quite possibly saved my life. Thanks to Randy Hammons, who provided transportation, I was then transported to the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Talihina, where I had only a 50 percent chance of surviving the surgery due to infection in my body.

Thankfully, God spared my life for some reason; I think it was for my very caring and lovely wife, Becky, who under all the stress and problems of financial obligation has not left my side for anything. I thank you and love you with all my heart, Becky. I couldn't ask for a better person to be my wife. The Choctaw Nation has helped me and my family so much. We would like to say thank you to Dr. Tidwell, Dr. Odunkwe, Randy Hammons, the nursing staff at Talihina, Gary Batton, Councilman Jack Austin, Charlene Grunstad, Quinton Rodgers, Linda Goodwin and all those that took part in my recovery. Above all I thank God for giving me another chance at life. For my wife, kids and the rest of my family. Thank you and God bless you.

Leslie Clay and family

Thankful for health care

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Since moving here to the Choctaw Nation from California, I have availed myself of the services of the Choctaw Nation Clinic in McAlester. I am very impressed. The office staff, nurses and doctors were all so friendly, helpful and efficient. In addition, they provided the medication which I needed from pharmacy on the site. I am very appreciative of this service. It outshines any HMO I have previously been a member of. I am proud to be a member of the Choctaw tribe. My mother was an original enrollee. Thank you.

Martha Garren Gujda

Investing in our children

Dear Chief Pyle,

I deeply appreciate your donation to the Shady Point Elementary School. This contribution will be a tremendous help. As you are aware, education and development of our area children are vital to the future of LeFlore County. On behalf of Shady Point Elementary School, I wish to thank you for your investment in the future of our children.

Sandy Thompson

Tribe helps family

Dear Choctaw Nation,

The Choctaw Nation has helped us twice this past few months. I have not been able to work and was waiting for my Social Security. We were living on my husband's Social Security and were having a lot of problems. The tribe came through for us both times and we are extremely grateful.

Nelda and Richard Airington

Gregory E. Pyle <i>Chief</i>	Mike Bailey <i>Assistant Chief</i>
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The BISHINIK is printed each month as a service to Tribal Members. The BISHINIK reserves the right to edit submitted material which it finds inaccurate, profane, offensive or morally unacceptable. Copy may be edited for proper grammar and punctuation. Copy will be accepted in any readable form, but where possible, it is requested that material be typewritten and double spaced. You must include an address or phone number where you may be reached.

If you are receiving more than one BISHINIK at your home or if your address needs changed, we would appreciate hearing from you.

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BISHINIK® 2006



Smithville Senior Citizens enjoy trip to South Dakota

The Choctaw Senior Citizens of Smithville recently took a trip to Mt. Rushmore, Rapid City, South Dakota. We wish to thank the Choctaw Nation for supplying a comfortable bus and courteous driver. Special thanks to our Councilman, Kenny Bryant, the Travel Plaza at Broken Bow and the Casino at Idabel for donations of prizes to help make this trip possible.



Crowder seniors celebrate Hillbilly Day

The Crowder Choctaw Seniors celebrated Hillbilly Day on August 23. The celebration began with the Crowder Hillbilly Band playing and singing some of their favorite tunes such as "Mountain Dew Holler," "I'll Fly Away," and "Froggy Went a-Courtin'." They also had a pig-callin' contest. Winners were awarded such prizes as bacon, sausage, ham and Mountain Dew. They ended the celebration with finger-lickin' good vittles and fellowship.



Pearl Allen is 100 years young

The family of Pearl Allen held a reception in honor of her 100th birthday on Saturday, October 21, at Catholic Parish Hall in Hartshorne. The family would like to thank Tribal Councilman Bob Pate for presenting Pearl with a nice blanket and plaque. Pictured are Pearl Richardson Allen with granddaughter Lorelea Hudson and great-granddaughter Lindsey Gauzza.

Looking for Jeremy Alexander family

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I need some help in finding this family. Since I am an Alexander living in Ohio I would like to contact them by telephone, fax or mail. My father and his family came from Waynesboro, Georgia. If you can help, please feel free to contact me, Roland Alexander, at my fax 330-759-9504.

Seeking descendents of Wallace Leflore

Dear Choctaw Nation,

I'm looking for any descendents of Wallace Leflore 1816-1864, Isabel Leflore Burns 1851?-1879, Lizzie Burns Holson 1851-1910? Mack H. Leflore, or any of the children of Wallace Leflore. I'm interested in family stories, pictures and any other information you may have. Isabel is my great-grandmother and I would like more history on her and her family as I have very little. Thanks for your help - Nelda Airington, nairington@yahoo.com or 405-562-7043.

Seeking information on Joseph Oklahombi

Dear Editor,

I am an author living in Jefferson City, Missouri, and I am doing research for an article on World War I veteran Joseph Oklahombi, a Choctaw Indian who served in D Company of the 141st Infantry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division. Oklahombi was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for bravery in action at Saint-Etienne, France, in October 1918. I am in hopes that if anyone who has any information on Mr. Oklahombi they would please contact me at William B. Allmon, 1104 W. McCarty St. Apt. 107, Jefferson City, MO 65109.

CHOCTAW NATION FORESTRY Firefighter Program

The Physical Fitness "Pack Test" will be administered on January 29, 2007
8 to 10 a.m. at the Talihina High School Track

All applicants will be required to have had a physical within the two weeks prior to taking the "Pack Test." Physical forms are available through Choctaw Nation Forestry's Office of Fire Management.

For more information, call Raymond Ludlow or Kendall Carpenter at 1-800-509-4571 or 918-567-2321



Burris family grateful for monument

Dear Editor,

The family of SFC Tony K. Burris would like to thank Gregory E. Pyle and the Choctaw Nation for helping Pioneer Telephone in Blanchard to build a monument for Tony. We are so very pleased. Tony has been gone for 55 years this October. He was awarded The Purple Heart, Oakleaf Cluster, Silver Star and the Congressional Medal of Honor. These will all be on display inside the new Pioneer Plaza named for him.

Thank you to Pioneer, Gary Green, Walt Crews and all the VFW members who helped with this and kept his memory alive all these years. We would also like to mention for all their help, Kelly McKaughan and Brent Oakes, representatives from the Choctaw tribe, helping get this right. We love it and are so pleased.

We would like to thank the following people: Pioneer Telephone, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, and nine brothers and sisters, Loretta Burris Wilson and Doyce, Wanda Burris Witt and Virgil, Sidney Burnett Burris and Bonnie, Joan Burris Thomson, Karen Burris McConnell and Jimmy, Terry Burris and Diana, Perry Burris, Jennifer Burris Kniss and Don, Judy Burris Simms and Charlie.

Stigler health conference

Dear Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles,

I am a fifth grade teacher from Keota Schools. I would like to thank your organization for the Health Conference that was held in Stigler. My entire class enjoyed each session and gained knowledge about care for themselves and others.

Glenda Seyler and the Keota Fifth Grade

Choctaw Nation Healthy Lifestyles partnered with several organizations for this successful event, including the Haskell County Coalition, Haskell County Health Department, Core Capacity, Salad Sisters and the Stigler Health and Wellness Center.

Thank you for higher education

I would like to say thank you to the Higher Education department. You have helped me so much with scholarship money. Thank you in helping me succeed in college. My husband, Matt, is pictured with me and I want to thank him as well for his faith in me and support in my educational goals.

Candace Woodroof



The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Candace who graduated from Central Bible College with a Bachelor of Arts in Pre-Seminary in Christian Counseling in May 2005.



Softball team appreciates support

Dear Choctaw Nation,

Cheyenne Selman, daughter of Wm. Ross and Kerry Selman of McAlester, would like to thank the Choctaw Nation for their support of the traveling fastpitch softball team, McAlester Knockouts, that she plays on. The Nation has been a great support for us when we needed it. Thank you for the activity fund you have available for me each year. It is a big help toward paying my yearly fees to play. I am one of the pitchers and also play first base.

We had a good year last year as a second-year 10-and-under team and hope to have even more this coming year as a first-year 12-and-under team. We traveled to Lawton in June this year for our state tournament where we placed second. In July we traveled to Blue Springs, Missouri, for our nationals where we came in eighth out of 26 teams. Our infield has pretty much played together for the last three years. We hope to be able to continue to play together for years to come. We have a younger outfield, but they are coming right along. Thanks again for supporting your own Choctaws!

My teammates are pitcher/third base, Bryn Houlton; catcher/first base, Hannah Cox; catcher/third base, Jordin Wilson; second base, Cheyanne Anderson and Meghan Dewbery; shortstop, Cheyanne Conklin and Meghan Dewbery; fielders, Miranda Stiles, Rayleigh Beck, Taylar Haynie and Meghan Dewbery. Head coach is Angie Wilson and assistant coaches are my dad, Ross Selman, and Tommy Cox.

From the desk of Chief Gregory E. Pyle ...

Code Talkers honored with exhibits in Oklahoma City

The Choctaw Code Talkers are being honored with two new exhibits at the Oklahoma History Center, located near the State Capitol in Oklahoma City. The National Museum of the American Indian’s traveling exhibit “Native Words, Native Warriors,” is making its first showing of information about Indian Code Talkers before it travels to other museums across the nation next year. Complementing the Smithsonian’s work is the History Center’s collection of information, “Hidden Voices, Coded Words,” featuring the history of the Choctaw and Comanche Code Talkers.

Many Choctaw students in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s

were punished severely for speaking their language while attending government boarding schools. They were assimilated into the non-Indian society as attempts were made to erase language, customs and heritage. In spite of the attempt of eradication, there was no hesitation for the Choctaws to agree to use this same language to assist the Army in defeating the enemy during wartime. Choctaws were the original Code Talkers, and the idea was organized after an officer overheard a group of men speaking in their own language. Because of the success in transmitting secure messages during WWI, Indian Code Talkers have been used repeatedly to confuse



Evangaline Wilson, Chief Gregory E. Pyle and Tewanna Anderson.

the enemy, with men from 18 tribes included in these efforts.

The Tribal Council, Assistant

Chief and I viewed the exhibits and were very pleased to see that information was there telling of

the revitalization of the Choctaw language through tribal education programs. The exhibits will be at the Oklahoma History Center until January 15, 2007.

The Choctaw Nation continues to do battle for recognition to these warriors – we still want the United States House of Representatives to pass the legislation awarding a medal for the Code Talkers. The Senate passed the Code Talker Recognition Act unanimously earlier this year, and it is currently being held in the House Finance Committee. We will not be discouraged from future action if the Recognition Act does not pass before the end of the year – we will begin anew in 2007.



Bruce Frazier is standing beside a picture of his grandfather, Tobias Frazier.



Tewanna Anderson Edwards, great-niece of Otis Leader; her granddaughter, Polly Anderson, and Evangaline Wilson, niece of Mitchell Bobb.

We are thankful...

The children at Choctaw Nation Head Start just completed a unit of study with the Care Bears. During this special unit the children learned ways to care and share with others. When asked if anyone knew of something that we could do to help others a couple of the children said we can share our food with people who don’t have any. The teachers helped the children set up a special basket in the classroom and told them that if they had extra food and wanted to share it with others they could bring it in and place it in the basket. The children really seemed to enjoy this special unit. Some of the parents reported that the children wanted to give away some of their toys and clothing to people who might need them.

On November 16, the children enjoyed a walk across the street to the food bank where they donated their food to others. After returning from the food bank, the teachers asked the children what they were thankful for and their responses were:

Annika Lowe, 4: I am thankful for my Daddy and my Momma, my sissy, my other sissy and my other sissy and my other sissy, Aunt Nancy, my TV, the centers at school, necklaces, for the pencils and my doggy and my brother.

Caitlyn Sandlin, 4: I am



thankful for my Meme and my friends and my school and I am thankful for my home and my Momma and my sister and I am thankful for the centers at school, for the leaves and I am thankful for the doors and the dolls.

Clara Daugherty, 3: I am thankful for Thelma, Fancy the dog, Faye, the center, the sun, the snakes, the elephants, Santa Claus, lights, pictures, and the gate and the books and the authors of the books.

Sarah Brady, 3: I am thankful for my Elizabeth, my Daddy, my Momma and my house and my food and my center and my pumpkin.

Jaycee Eddings, 3: I am thankful for my toys and my Momma and Daddy.

James Thomas, 4: I am thankful for my Momma and Daddy and James Thomas.

Kadence Revels, 4: I am thankful for my Momma and Daddy and A.J. and my sister

and toys and cousins and Dora and windows and necklaces.

Christopher Breger, 4: Nanna and Momma.

Warren Birdshead, 3: I am thankful for Daddy and Mommy and Tvli and Spikey Jr. I still miss Spikey Jr. He’s gone at doggy heaven and I still miss Spikey Jr.

April Silkey, 3: I am thankful for Faye, Thelma, Shirley, David and Chad and baby Buster.

Chandler “Chayenne” McCoy, 3: Momma, Daddy and Papa.

Kailee Caldwell, 3: I am thankful for my Momma, my sissy, my Daddy, my bubba.

Nathaniel Jim, 3: I am thankful for biscuits, my Momma, my Daddy, my Mason and my Brandon.

Hailey Tekubie, 3: I am thankful for my Momma and my Daddy, my brother and my little brother, my house and my toys.

James Gootee, 3: I am thankful for pumpkins.

From the desk of Assistant Chief Mike Bailey ...

‘This is a golden age’

Pressing issues and business developments often have me too busy to attend dinners and gatherings, so I feel extremely blessed to have been able to spend time during this holiday season at several of the Thanksgiving dinners in the Tribal Council Districts. The meals were some of the best I have ever eaten, thanks to some outstanding cooks, but visiting with everyone was even more enjoyable.

The ten and one-half counties of the Choctaw Nation cover a lot of ground, and driving time to some dinners was up to three hours from my home. It was well worth every mile traveled. Every dinner began with prayer, which is a tremendous comfort to experience. Each center was filled to capacity (and sometimes beyond capacity) with cheerful, thankful people who warmed my heart and made me happy that I was able to join them.

It was exciting to see first-hand some of the new things coming up in the Choctaw Nation. Driving to Broken Bow, I saw the site



of the new Head Start Center and the new clinic being prepared for construction. The new Casino in Broken Bow is extremely beautiful and very spacious. The town of Idabel is getting a new Community Center in the area between the Child Development Center and the Choctaw Health Clinic that opened in 2005.

While in Talihina at the Thanksgiving dinner, we also visited the Ch̃i Hullo Li facilities and drove by the new Recovery Center and neighboring Equestrian Program, all stunning buildings that house great services for Native American people.

We, as Choctaws, have so much to be proud of. The tribe has grown in membership, and

has also grown in programs and services. The McAlester clinic is rapidly being built, a clinic is planned for Atoka, a pharmacy refill center is under construction in Poteau, and our gaming facilities everywhere continue to be expanded and enlarged.

This is truly a golden age for the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and it is humbling to be a part of the growth. I appreciate Chief Pyle, the Council and all of the Choctaw people for allowing me to work for the tribe as the Assistant Chief. The holiday season always brings back special memories of family and friends, both past and present, and my prayers are that all of you have a blessed Christmas and New Year.

‘The word was made flesh’

May the Lord bless you and your loved ones in a very special way during this Christmas season and in the coming New Year 2007 is my prayer.

During this Christmas season, Christ is often left out as we forget that it is His birthday we are celebrating. The meaning of that first Christmas is clear: God came to earth in human form.

Genesis 1:1 begins with “In the beginning God ...” and the Gospel of John 1:1 begins, “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God, and the word was God.”

Jesus Christ was the Word and “The word was made flesh, ...” (John 1:14).

Our Lord Jesus Christ was marked from the beginning of time to reign.

On the first Christmas Jesus came as the Savior, born of virgin Mary in Bethlehem. When He comes again, He will come as the Sovereign. Sovereign means that whatever He says or does is final, He answers to no one.

The Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross for our sins. He bought us back with His precious shed blood. He went to heaven and today He sits at the right hand of God the Father and He is coming back to this earth. Once He came in lowliness, then He will come in glory.

The matter of who shall rule has been the cause of all our conflicts down through the ages.

Who shall rule in heaven? Who shall rule in earth? Who shall rule in the hearts of men?

Two of these questions have already been answered.

God is ruling in heaven now. Jesus said, “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name ... Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” God’s will is done in heaven. This is settled, God rules in heaven.

And God shall rule on the earth. He has given to His Son the right to rule on the earth when He comes the second time.

The scriptures declare in Isaiah 2:3-4, “... for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the

Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

But peace is not due until the Prince of Peace comes. What are we doing today? We are doing right the opposite – we prepare for wars. At that time we shall beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruninghooks. We will prepare for peace, because the Prince of Peace will be here and ruling with a rod of iron.

Jesus Christ is not only appointed to reign in the hearts of men. Christ did not come to take away our joy, to work hardship upon us, or to make us slaves of fear and men whose hearts are full of misery. He came that He might reign in our hearts and reign there in peace. Jesus said, “... My peace I give unto you: ...” (John 14:27) and this is why He came, this is why He wants to rule in our hearts. Not just to rule so that He might be the Sovereign and make us do His will, but to rule in our hearts to give us peace, to make us joyful, happy people.

Paul the Apostle writes in Romans 5:1; “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 26:3, “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Let us not make the mistake of trying to find peace somewhere else. We will never find peace until, by trusting in the Prince of Peace, we allow Him to reign in our hearts. This is God’s remedy for all the problems of the heart.

Do you go to Church and sing the songs of life, while deep in your heart you know that you have never accepted His invitation to come to Jesus and live?

The Church will not give us peace, and I believe in the Church.



The Rev. Bertram Bobb

But we can go to Church forever and sing its songs and go through all the religious rites and still not find peace. The Church was not crucified for us. It did not shed its blood as a sinless sacrifice that we might be redeemed from sin. Jesus did that. Nothing else and no one else can bring peace into the human heart.

Again the prophet Isaiah wrote in Isaiah 57:20-21, “But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.”

Peace was the promise of the angels at Christ’s birth. As the Prince of Peace He came to bring men peace with God, and the only experience of peace of heart. Only those who accept Christ as their own personal Savior find peace with God and it is necessary to commit our life to Jesus Christ as the ruler of our lives in order to experience daily peace of heart.

When you come to Christ, the Holy Spirit will give you joy and peace in the midst of your trials and troubles. You can start now, by being willing to give up your sins and by receiving Jesus Christ in a childlike faith. Will you do that? When you make this choice to trust Jesus as your Savior this Christmas will be the greatest you will ever have.

Continue to pray for our Native American people.

Remember our Nation’s leaders, both our Indian Nations and our United States of America. Pray for our brave men and women in our armed services. May God bless you and a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2007.

Native American Bible Academy graduates

The Rev. Bertram Bobb, Choctaw Nation Chaplain, announces that three students graduated from the Native American Bible Academy, Ringold, Oklahoma, on November 10. These students have completed the two-year certificate courses for ministry opportunities.

The graduates are:

Dennis Lake, 50, of Hooper Bay, Alaska, who is an Eskimo of the Yupik Tribe. He desires to be used in the Pastorate.

Bach Rattler, 23, of Pine Ridge, South Dakota, a Lakota Oglala Sioux and Apache Tribe. He desires to be used in youth ministry. Bach is currently with “On Eagles Wing” youth ministry of the Ron Hutchcraft Ministries of Harrison, Arkansas.

Chris Galcatcher is from Stillwell, Oklahoma, and of Cherokee and Osage Tribes. He is with the Good News Evangelistic Fellowship of Stillwell, a children and youth ministry.

Winter 2007 Class Schedule

January 15-19:	Rev. John Cernak, M.A. New Testament Survey
January 22-26:	Rev. Len Rascher, Ph.D. Building Biblical Strongholds
Jan. 29-Feb. 2:	Rev. Charlie Yates (Chickasaw) What on Earth’s Going On?
February 4-9:	Rev. Jim Harper, Ph.D. Pastoral Counseling
February 12-16:	Rev. Rick Gilbertson Studies in James
February 19-23:	Rev. Shannon Steven (Cherokee) Systematic Theology I

For more information contact
Dr. Leonard Rascher, 580-981-7024,
or Dr. Jim Harper, 708-207-4688 (cell).
Or you may write to
P.O. Box 812, Ringold, OK 74754

Top 10 Holiday Exercise Tips

1) Take a walk

An after-dinner stroll can be just the thing; it can be a time to escape family tension or to find a few minutes alone with your spouse. It could also be a nice family tradition. Perhaps you should ask if anyone wants to join you for a stroll.

2) Exercise before you leave your room

Do some stretches, yoga, or calisthenics before you leave your room in the morning. If you do them before anyone knows you are awake, you don't have to worry about plans changing and then your whole day is free.

3) Don't stress about parking

Can't find a close spot at the store? Why even bother looking. Park way in the back and take the chance to walk. You'll save yourself some stress and burn some calories.

4) Help with the kids

Volunteer to take the kids (yours, your family's, whoever is around) to the park. Play tag with them, or hide 'n' seek, or throw a football around. The kids will have fun, the parents will be happy, and you'll get some exercise.

5) Do some chores

You could volunteer to clear the table and do the dishes. Hey, it's not a 30-minute run but somebody has to do it and it is healthier than sitting on the couch. Other chores could be taking the dogs for a walk, going to the grocery store for last-minute items, or offer to refill drinks for other people.

6) Be a kid again

Build a snowman in the front yard. Take the family ice skating. Chase someone, then get chased back. Make a snow angel. Ride your bike or walk to go see your friends.

7) Run to the store, literally

If all you are bringing back is a can of cranberries or something equally easy to carry, tie on your shoes and make a run for it. Is the store too far for a run? Park a few blocks away from the store and run from there.

8) Take advantage of layovers

Flying? Walk around the airport; browse the gift shops. No reason to spend your waiting time sitting. There will be plenty of that on the plane. If you don't mind people staring, you can even try to get in a jog (through the airport, very carefully) during a long layover.

9) Spend time with your significant other

This can be a trying time of year for couples. Take some time to show them you love them. (Don't forget to tell them, too.)

10) Put on some music

Whether it is your favorite Christmas carols CD or the only station you can get on the radio, turn it up and dance around. It'll make those chores you volunteered for go faster, if you are having a good time.

For more information, call Wellness Education/REACH 2010 at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958.



Bigfoot 5k winners from the race in Honobia.



Winners of the REACH 2010 Diabetes .5k run in Talihina.

Battling obesity one step at a time



REACH 2010 Diabetes 5k.



REACH 2010 Diabetes .5k.



Bigfoot 5k.

According to the American Obesity Association, approximately 30.3 percent of children (ages 6-11) are overweight (at or above the 85th percentile of BMI) and 15.3 percent are obese (at or above the 95th percentile of BMI). For adolescents (ages 12-19), 30.4 percent are overweight and 15.5 percent are obese. Children with obesity, ages 10-13, are reported to have a 70 percent likelihood of obesity persisting into adult years. In addition 32.2 percent of adults are obese and almost 5 percent of adults are extremely obese.

The prevalence of obesity has quadrupled over the past 25 years. According to a new report from Trust for America's Health, adult obesity rates continue to rise in 31 states over the past year. Currently Oklahoma ranks 13th with 1 being the highest rate of obesity.

In an effort to combat obesity by getting adults and kids moving, REACH 2010 physical activity promotion events that were held recently included the Bigfoot 5k walk/run and the Diabetes 5k walk/run, both held in October.

The second annual Bigfoot 5k walk/run was held October 7 in Honobia, Oklahoma, in conjunction with the Bigfoot Festival. The event drew 276 walkers and runners for the 1 mile fun run or the 5k walk/run. Plaques and gift cards were given to the first, second, and third place male and female runners.

First place female was Karen Sumpter from Talihina; second place female was Keisha Brown from Talihina; and third place female was Kelli Holmes from Oklahoma City.

First place in the male division was Jordan Eagleroad from Talihina; second place male was Roy Bates from Blanchard, and third place was Shawn Depew from Oklahoma City.

The oldest female participant in the 5k was Debbie Baker, and the oldest male in the 5k was Joe Johnson.

The seventh annual REACH 2010 Diabetes 5k was held in Talihina on October 28 in conjunction with the Fall Foliage Festival. This event had a total of 164 participants in the 5k or the 1 mile fun run. Medals were given in the 5k in each age category. Overall male first, second, third place male and female again received medals and gift cards. Winners in the overall female category were first Karen Sumpter from Talihina, second place Ladona Medlock from Talihina and third place Casie Dees from Poteau. First place male was Josh Riley from Talihina, second place male was Jordan Eagleroad from Talihina, and third place was Herve Lucier from Whitesboro.

A 5k relay was added this year. First place in the 5k relay was the Mohawks from the Oklahoma City area, second place was The Hot Shots from Talihina, and third place was the Cherokee Cuties from the Tahlequah area.

The crowd favorite is always the kids 8 and under .5k. Little ones from 1 year of age (or at least walking) to 8 years of age line up and run ½ a kilometer to the finish line. Fourty-three kids ran in the .5k. The gold medal in the girls division was Cheyenne Cranfield, and the silver medal went to Kori Brown. Gold medal in the boys division was Trey Hawkins from Talihina, second place was Sawyer Blue from Talihina. All other participants received a bronze medal.

The 5k events were co-sponsored by Diabetes Wellness Center and the Happy Heart CVD program. The REACH department would like to thank all the volunteers for their hard work, and thanks to all the participants. We look forward to the first and last weekend of October 2007 and hope to see you at these events. For more information contact the REACH/Wellness Department at 1-800-349-7026, ext. 6044 or 6958.

UCO unveils new sculpture



The University of Central Oklahoma held a dedication and unveiling ceremony of the sculpture "Kinetic Air" on October 6 in front of Mitchell Hall Theater.

The sculpture was created in a joint effort between UCO and the City of Edmond as a community beautification project.

Edmond artist Rich Muno created the life-size classic bronze sculpture that features two posed dancers in a star lift.

The sculpture was dedicated in memory of Hannah McCarty, a high school student who passed away at age 16.

Pam McCarty, Hannah's mother, said Hannah loved participating in UCO's dance workshops, adding that her last performance on stage was at UCO's Mitchell Hall Theater during the 2003 summer dance workshop.

"The sculpture dedication and the scholarship mean a great deal to my husband, Jack, and me because they will serve to continue Hannah's legacy for years to come. To know Hannah is to know her love for people, her love for dance and theater, and her love for God," said McCarty.

The couple has funded the "Hannah McCarty Performing Arts Endowed Scholarship" in honor of their daughter. The scholarship will benefit one UCO dance or theater student each year, once the endowment is complete.

Youth Advisory Board holds annual conference



By Severt Dahl

The Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board held its yearly conference October 19-20 at the KBA grounds in Talihina. It was an overnight conference hosted by the Healthy Lifestyles Team. There were a total of 41 people in attendance. The board broke into different districts and set goals for their areas. New officers were elected – Cody Peters, Chairman; Chelsea Wells, Vice Chairwoman; and Severt Dahl, Secretary.

The group discussed the upcoming Youth Explosion III in February 2007. Kristi Adams led the YAB members in various fun activities. Adam Crissman and Chelsea Wells were chosen to go to Oklahoma City for a Fit-Kid Conference and serve on the governor's board.

Membership for the Youth Advisory Board is open to grades 8 through 12, and you don't have to be Choctaw to join. If you would like information on joining the YAB please contact Joyce Wells at 580-317-9335. The YAB would love to have you join.

WIC

What is a healthy weight for you?
Weight and body image in America

Aiming for a healthy weight can be confusing in today’s celebrity-driven culture. Although there has been some movement toward more realistic body images, most of the models that people see in the media are extremely thin, lean and athletic.

Few average Americans have the genetics, time or money necessary for such “perfect” bodies. (Digital manipulation of fashion photography also helps quite a bit!) Unfortunately, many people damage their mental and physical health in vain attempts to be beautiful and acceptable. Radical diets, dangerous weight loss products and disordered eating are all too common, especially among teens, women and overweight people – who will do anything in a desperate effort to reach the unattainable.

GOVERNMENT WEIGHT GUIDELINES

Government weight guidelines have shifted from the old height-weight tables to the concept of Body Mass Index (BMI). BMI was used to define a healthy weight from a BMI table. Complete description of BMI calculations, and the relationship of BMI to health can be found for consumers at www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/obesity/calltoaction/fact_advice.htm.

An easy-to-read chart is available on the above web site.

LOOKING BEYOND BMI FOR HEALTHY WEIGHT

Many health professionals are using a more holistic definition of healthy weight, one that focuses more on health than weight. Here are some thoughts from experts who think beyond BMI when looking at weight management.

A HEALTHY WEIGHT IS:

- determined by lifestyle, not by a number on a scale or BMI chart.
- a weight where food can be a part of your life, but not all of your life.
- the weight that one’s body settles into with a balanced lifestyle, healthful eating, and regular physical exercise.
- a weight that is attainable and maintainable within a reasonable stable range without having to resort to heroic efforts of restricting caloric intake or having to do an enormous amount of exercise to keep weight in a normal range.
- a weight range that a person settles into while respecting natural appetites for food, movement, and rest; without using restrictive eating patterns, compulsive exercise, medications, or supplements to manage their weight.

Teaching children discipline

Prevent Child Abuse America gives these tips on how to teach children discipline without being abusive.

• **Remember the purpose of discipline.** It is to teach your child socially acceptable ways of expressing natural desires and drives. Discipline guides your child into adulthood.

• **Successful discipline is geared to the child’s developmental stage.** Don’t expect a child of any age to perform something he or she is not ready for.

• **Children need positive reinforcement.** Reward your child for doing right with smiles, hugs, attention, praise, and thanks. Rewards do not need to be toys or candy.

• **Never hit or shake a child.** Hitting is not a useful discipline tool for your children. Hitting and other physical punishment are not effective because they teach a child that it is okay to hit people, make children much too angry to be sorry for what they’ve done and can hurt a child physically.

• **Discipline is best taught by example.** The lessons you teach your child come from what your child sees you do – not what you say.


• **If what you are doing is not working, change it!** Your best efforts, even those that worked in the past, may break down. Try to keep sight of your basic principles and always cherish your relationship with your child.

The important thing is not whether your child behaves in the next few minutes or today or this week. The really important thing is how your child turns out five, 10 or 20 years from now.

For more information on child abuse prevention go to www.preventchildabuse.org. This article is sponsored by the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, other injury prevention tips, or the Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program please call 580-326-8304 and ask for Beckie Morris, IP Coordinator or e-mail RMorris@choctawnation.com.

Breastfeeding Classes Choctaw Nation WIC

Class One	Location	Class Two
	HUGO	
Tuesday January 9, 2007	Choctaw Nation WIC Office Conference Room 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday February 6, 2007
	ATOKA	
Tuesday January 16, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday February 13, 2007
	McALESTER	
Tuesday January 23, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday February 20, 2007
	DURANT	
Tuesday March 6, 2007	Durant WIC Office 1601 N. Washington 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 3, 2007
	TALIHINA	
Tuesday March 13, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 10, 2007
	IDABEL	
Tuesday March 20, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 17, 2007
	POTEAU	
Tuesday March 27, 2007	Choctaw Community Center 10 a.m.-12 noon	Tuesday April 24, 2007



Choctaw Nation WIC

WOMEN, INFANT AND CHILDREN

Serving the Choctaw Nation at 15 sites

SITE	PHONE	HOURS	DAYS
Antlers	580-298-3161	8:30-4:00	1st, 3rd Tuesdays
Atoka	580-889-5825	8:00-4:30	Every Mon., Thurs.
		8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Wed.; 1st & 2nd Fri.
Bethel	580-241-5458	8:30-4:00	1st & 3rd Tuesday
Boswell	580-380-2517	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Friday
Broken Bow	580-584-2746	8:00-4:30	2nd & 4th Tues., every Wed.
		8:00-4:30	1st, 3rd & 4th Thurs.
Coalgate	580-927-3641	8:30-4:00	2nd Wednesday
Durant	580-924-8280 x 2255	8:00-4:30	Daily
Hugo	580-326-5404	8:00-4:30	Mon.; 4th Tues.; Wed.; Thurs., 3rd, 4th Fri
Idabel	580-286-2510	8:30-4:00	Monday and Friday
McAlester	918-423-6335	8:00-4:30	1st & 2nd week - Tues., Wed., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	3rd & 4th week - every day
Poteau	918-647-4585	8:00-4:30	1st, 4th wk - Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri.
		8:00-4:30	2nd wk - Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Smithville	580-244-3289	8:30-4:00	2nd Thursday
Stigler	918-967-4211	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Monday
Talihina	918-567-7000 x 6792	8:30-4:00	Every Tues.; 2nd & 3rd Thurs.
Wilburton	918-465-5641	8:30-4:00	1st & 2nd Thursday



Head Start students are a treat

Choctaw Nation Head Start students enjoy a day of treating our neighborhood Indian Health Clinic and Choctaw Nation Community Center. The day was full of fun and excitement, letting the senior citizens enjoy the trick-or-treaters. We call it a treat.

Perfect attendance



Congratulations to students winning perfect attendance awards for September at the Choctaw Nation Head Start in Wright City.



Little beauty

Jasmine Belle Myers, the six-month-old daughter of Steven and Tara Myers of McAlester, was recently entered in the Sunburst USA Beauty Pageant.

Jasmine was selected second runnerup and was awarded a trophy. She also received a three-inch crown for selling sponsor tickets. Jasmine was given the opportunity to go to state with all fees paid.

Your Mom and Dad and all your brothers and sisters would like to tell you that they are so proud of you and want to wish you good luck at state!

NURSERY NEWS

Colby Lane Grayson

Cody and Chasity Grayson are proud to announce the birth of their son, Colby Lane Grayson. He was born on June 20, 2006, at Wadley Regional Medical Center in Texarkana, Texas. Colby weighed 6 pounds 13 ounces and was 19.5 inches long. He is the grandson of David and Becky Delozier of Haworth and Ken and Anita Grayson of Hooks, Texas.



Bethany Danielle Anderson

Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo would like to announce the birth of their first great-granddaughter, Bethany Danielle Anderson. She was born on August 30, 2006, at the Durant Medical Center. She weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and was 18.5 inches long. She is the daughter of Sharena Ward and Danny Anderson and she has one sister, Angelique. Her grandparents are Ruth Ward, Donnie and Jacque Knight of Shawnee and Jerry and Terrie Anderson. Great-grandparents are Lloyd and Mary Ward of Paris, Texas, and Weldon and Peggy Mitchell. Great-great-grandmother is Evelina Neighbors. Godparents are Mark and Christine Sellars and the late Inez and Henry Wilkins and J.C. and Ruth Lemmond.



Allison Brooklyn Crane

Allison Brooklyn Crane was born on August 13, 2006, in Oklahoma City to Adam and Kerri Crane. Allison weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Her big brother, Ethan, turned 3 years old on September 29. She also has two brothers, Cyrus and Noah Crane from North Carolina. Her grandparents are Dwaine and Rachael Benedict of Garland, Texas, and Lyle and Ginger Crane of Grove. Great-grandparents are Laureda and the late M.C. Benedict of Mead, Imogene Miller of Bernice and Peggy Miller of Tulsa. We wish our daddy would hurry and return home safely from Iraq!



Sonny Wade Cullen

Clay and Molly Culver Cullen proudly announce the birth of their son, Sonny Wade Cullen, shown here with granddad John Carl Culver. Sonny



was born August 15, 2006, weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces and measuring 20 inches long. He lives in Castaic, California, with his parents and is a proud descendent of original enrollee Amanda Lomer.

Teagan Elise Tingle

Proud parents Jacob and Jennifer Tingle would like to announce the birth of their first child, Teagan Elise Tingle. Teagan was born on August 20, 2006, in San Antonio, Texas. She weighed 6 pounds 10 ounces and she was 19 inches long. Grandparents are Tim Tingle, Canyon Lake, Texas, Catherine Bray, Rosharon, Texas, and Ken and Caroline Lebsack of Gaithersburg, Maryland.



Talia LeAnn Vanriette

Darrell and Beverly Vanriette are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Talia LeAnn Vanriette. She was born August 28, 2006, at Choctaw Nation Health Care Center. Proud siblings are Shania Jim, Lakota Vanriette and Darrell Vanriette Jr. Grandparents are Eldene Jim and Van “Toot” Meashintubby of Atoka and Robert and Etta Vanriette of Muse. Great-grandparents are Dave Vanriette and the late Ola Vanriette and the late Emmitt and Susan Jim.



Happy birthday!

Birthday wishes go out to Darrell Vanriette Jr. who turned 3 on November 25 and happy belated birthday to brother Lakota on October 20. Parents are Darrell and Beverly Vanriette.



Kyra Kinsey

Jeremy Kinsey and Brittany Jenkins of Poteau would like to announce the birth of their daughter, Kyra. She was born on September 5, 2006, weighing 3 pounds 14 ounces. Her paternal grandmother is Tammy Kinsey.



Micah Dawn Davidson

Dakota Fox and Abigail Davidson would like to announce the birth of their little sister, Micah Dawn Davidson. She was born September 7, 2006, at Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah. She weighed 8 pounds 12 ounces. Her parents are Michael and Jennifer Davidson of Roland. Grandparents are Vida Russell of Cameron and Danny and Betty Berry of Greenwood, Arkansas.



Kay Anneliese Lerch

Kay Anneliese Lerch was born November 3, 2006. She weighed 6 pounds 8 ounces and was 21 inches long. Proud parents are William and Jessica Lerch. William is in the Army, stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Grandparents are Pernell and Patsy Lerch of Heavener and George and Andrea Carroll of Fleming, Georgia.



PEOPLE YOU KNOW



What a blessed birthday dinner

On September 30, Pollie Wilson was truly surprised with a magnificent dinner party given by her daughter, Cynthia Wilson. Pollie arrived at her daughter’s home and was warmly greeted by relatives, friends and neighbors. It was truly a day to remember. After a delicious dinner that was served by her granddaughter, Jasmine, a family disk jockey provided entertainment, taking everyone down memory lane. Laughter came with a thrill of a magic show. The hand is quicker than the eye. Pollie would like to extend a hearty thanks to all who attended and a special thanks to those who traveled so far – her mother, Caroline Thompson; sister, Juanita; and brother, Lawrence, all from Paris, Texas; Kristy and Carla of Ohio who were the life of the party; Harvetta and Tiny Girl of Berkely, California; Brenda Harmon of Rolling Heights; Lisa Plumb of Las Vegas; and Eugene Dunford and wife of Apple Valley and son Michael and grandson Milton. A big thanks also goes to Cynthia for all the preparation and Ruth and Kozy for the special thing they did. I give God the Glory for letting me celebrate 71 years.

Happy birthday

Bianca Genevieve Fuller turns 2 on December 17. Best wishes to our precious little girl. You are the light of our world. From Nana, Papa, Mommy, Daddy, Granny, Meme and Pape.



Birthday blessings

Her family would like to wish Miss Nelda Darlene Johnson a blessed 56th birthday on December 3! Nelda was born in Achille and currently resides in Modesto, California. She is the granddaughter of Tatum and Marsaline Johnson, both of whom are original enrollees from Mississippi. She’s a daughter of Ellis and Eva Johnson. A potter, Nelda is included on the Choctaw Nation’s artist registry. Nelda would love to hear from Choctaw friends and relatives. Feel free to e-mail her at: IndianBabyDoll@aol.com.



Birthday blessings

Lee and Linda Knight of Hugo would like to wish their grandson, Gage Knight, a happy seventh birthday on July 29. Gage is the son of Donnie and Jacque Knight of Shawnee and the grandson of Ray and Pat Booze of Shawnee. Gage has a sister, Sha Ward of Hugo. We would also like to wish Jacque Booze a belated happy birthday on September 30 and grandparents Ray and Pat Booze also celebrate birthdays in September.



Corey turns 8

Happy eighth birthday on November 17 to Corey Dale Lovewell of Alleene, Arkansas. Corey is the grandson of Zora Lovewell. His Grandma Lovewell and Austin and Savannah also would like to wish him a happy birthday.



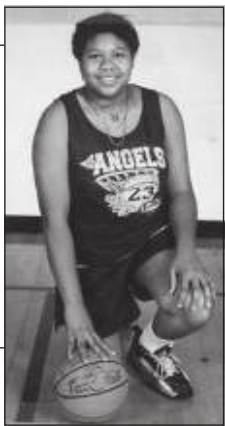
Happy first birthday

Aunt Kathie and Uncle Vincent would like to wish their niece, Krischelle Dawn Wallace, a belated first birthday. She turned 1 on September 25. She celebrated her day at her uncle’s home with a dinner and Care Bear cake, along with her cousins. Krischelle is our little angel and our pride and joy. Proud parents are Cebrane and Rebecca Wallace of Ada. Krischelle has two siblings – a brother, Davis, and sister, Amy of Lincole, South Carolina. Proud grandparents are Albert and Elaine Wallace of Ada, Roger Pilant of Tulsa, Deborah Relfelt of Loris, South Carolina, and Jean English of Iberia, Missouri. She is the great-granddaughter of the late Isaac and Lula Bohanon of Paris, Texas, the late Josh and Minnie Wallace of Pauls Valley and Betty Keffer and the late J.B. Pilant of Keifer. Wishing her a happy birthday are her great-uncle Brad Bohanon, Will Bohanon, Josh Wallace Jr. and Ricky Bohanon of Ada, and great-aunt Claire Bohanon of Ada; cousins Gary, Felicia, Marissa, Wendy, Mila, Vanessa and Kaylee, all of Ada. We would also like to extend our wishes to Marissa Trent on her first birthday, September 21. Krischelle, may God bless you and always keep you safe.



Patty turns 21

Patty Ann Tushka turned 21 on November 21. Patty is from Broken Bow and is the daughter of Peggy Tushka, Broken Bow. Grandparents are Barrentine and Nancy Tushka. Helping her celebrate were her big brother, Mark, and little brother, Eric.



Peggy turns 44

Peggy Ann Tushka turns 44 on November 4. Patty is from Broken Bow and the daughter of Barrentine and Nancy Tushka. Her three children are sons Mark and Eric and daughter Patty.

Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Bob and Jennifer Hall. Bob was born in Talihina on October 3, 1980, and Jennifer was born in Idabel on November 1, 1981. They are now living in Cincinnati, Ohio. From your loving parents, John and Sally Hall.



Happy birthday

The family of Roberta “Birdi” Romero wants to wish her a belated 60th birthday. She says her mind is 16 and her body is 60. Roberta turned the big 60 on October 19. She is the mother of two sons, Antonio Enriquez and SGT. Mario Morales. Also she has one great-granddaughter, Antonia Enriquez, who is the light of her life. Roberta has been blessed to still have her mother, Ida Turner, who just turned 100 this past July. Roberta graduated from Jones Academy in 1965. She states being a student at Jones was one of the greatest years of her life. She was in the first class at Jones that graduated girls. As well as still holding down a full-time job she finds time to play league pool four nights a week. She also enjoys making bracelets when she can find the time. Shown in the picture are Roberta with her two sons, Tony and Mario, and great-granddaughter, Antonia. Happy birthday from all of us and many more, Pokni.



Happy 37th, Tony

Antonio Enriquez, better known as Tony, turned 37 on December 11. His family wants to wish him a happy birthday. Tony is the father of one daughter, Antonia, the bright star in his life. Tony is shown here with his pool stick. He plays league pool three nights a week. On Sundays he captains an 8-ball team; on Mondays and Wednesdays he is the captain of a 9-ball team. Tony plays at a 6 level which is only 1 shy of the highest level which is a 7. He has played pool for around 15 years and is very good at it. He and his partner, Natalie Cyr, won a chance to go to Las Vegas as a scotch double team to compete against couples from all over the United States. Your family wants you to know they are very proud of you.



Happy birthday Jeffrey

Jeffrey Keith Davis celebrated his eleventh birthday on September 14. His parents are Keith and Sharon Davis of Texarkana, Texas. His grandparents are Earl and Ann Davis and Donald and Bobbie Scott of Idabel. His grandmother is Evelyn Mills of Atlanta, Texas.



Wyatt Lane turns 11

Wyatt Lane Williams celebrated his eleventh birthday on September 9. His parents are Barry and Linda Williams of Idabel. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Arvel Williams of Summerfield and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Scott of Idabel.



Birthday wishes go out to Ashley and Noah

We would like to wish our grandchildren happy birthdays. Ashley turned 15 on October 30 and Noah turned 1 on December 9. Their parents are B.J. and Christy Chaser. Grandparents are Roy and Linda Loyd and William and Dixie Chaser. Great-grandparents are Ruth Carshall and Dorothy Loyd.



Happy birthday Joyce

The family of Joyce Tallant Anderson would like to wish her a very happy 51st birthday on December 16. We wish you the best. Your family, Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; Janis Walker, Joplin, Missouri; Shawn and Connie, husband David, daughter Dezirai and son-in-law Bill, and grandkids, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake and Noah, all of Joplin; son Tim and daughter-in-law Teresa and granddaughters Ocean and Cheyann, and son Kenny and daughter-in-law Heather of Joplin.



Matt has 18th birthday

The family of Matt Witt would like to wish him a happy birthday on December 18. They said you wouldn’t make it a year and now look at you at 18. – Dad and Dez; great-grandma Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; great-grandma Janis Walker, grandma and pa, Joyce and David, grandma Betty, all of Joplin, Missouri. Brothers, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces would also like to say happy birthday, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake, Kelly and Noah; Uncle Tim and Aunt Teresa, cousins Ocean and Cheyann, Uncle Kenny and Aunt Heather and Uncle Terry, all of Joplin.



Cheyann is 8

Proud parents of Cheyann Rickey would like to wish her a belated happy birthday. She turned 8 on August 21. She is their little doll. – Parents Teresa and Tim, sister Ocean and great-grandma Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; great-grandma Janis Walker, Joplin, Missouri, and grandma and pa, Joyce and David of Joplin, Aunt Dezirai and Uncle Bill, cousins Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake, Kelly and Noah, and Uncle Kenny and Aunt Heather, all of Joplin.



Happy birthday Terry

The family of Terry Witt would like to wish him a happy birthday. He turned 37 on December 2 – Mom of Webbcity, Missouri, Joyce, David, Bill and Dez; also, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake, Kelly, Noah, Tim and Teresa, Ocean, Cheyann, Kenny and Heather, all of Joplin, Missouri.



Look who’s 80

Happy birthday to James Taylor Benjamin, who is a son of original Choctaw enrollee James Benjamin. He celebrates his 80th birthday on December 12.



Logan celebrates fifth birthday

Caleb and Austin would like to wish their little brother, Logan, a happy fifth birthday on November 13. Logan goes to Choctaw Nation Head Start. He likes to play outside and ride his bike. He is so loving and caring. There is never a day that goes by when he doesn’t have a huge smile on his face. He is the son of Matt and Lori Sullivan of Durant. His grandparents are the Rev. Floyd and Nancy Peters of Antlers and Dale and Lois Sullivan of Haworth. He has several aunts, uncles and cousins who would like to wish Logan a happy birthday.



Jaxson turns 2

Jaxson Cannon turned 2 on November 16. His parents are Jarrett and Ruthie Cannon. Grandparents are Roy and Linda Loyd and H.L. and Christy Cannon. Great-grandparents are Ruth Carshall and Dorothy Loyd.



Blake turns 4

The family of Blake Witt would like to wish him a happy fourth birthday on November 21. You are so cute and you are our little man. – Dad and Dez and great-grandma Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; great-grandma Janis Walker, grandma and grandpa, Joyce and David, grandma Betty, brothers, sisters-in-law, nieces and nephews, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake and Noah, and Uncle Terry, all of Joplin.



Happy second birthday

The family of Kelly Danielson would like to wish her a happy birthday on November 7. – Mom and Dad, great-grandma Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; great-grandma Janis Walker and papa Shawn and Connie; grandma and pa, Joyce and David, grandma Betty, and brother, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake and Noah, Uncle Tim, Aunt Teresa, Uncle Terry, Uncle Kenny, Aunt Heather, cousins Ocean and Cheyann, all of Joplin, Missouri.



Happy birthday

The family of Noah Danielson would like to tell him how cute and big he is getting and wishes him a happy birthday. – Mom and dad and great-grandma Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; great-grandma Janis Walker and papa Shawn and Connie, grandma and pa Joyce and David, grandma Betty and brothers, sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake and Kelly, Uncle Tim and Aunt Teresa, cousins Ocean and Cheyann, and Uncle Kenny and Aunt Heather of Joplin, Missouri.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday to Grady Layne Grimmett of Ashtown, Arkansas, who was 3 on November 6. Pictured with him is his brother, Kody Shayne Pence of Paris, Texas, whose birthday is on December 3. He turns 15. They would like to wish their Aunt Rozella and Uncle Ken of Surprise, Arizona, a happy anniversary on October 12. Congratulations on 27 years together.



Family celebrating birthdays

Shellie, Randy and Ma-Ma WeWe and MaMan Garr would like to say happy birthday to Harley who turned 4 on November 18, Jordan who turned 2 on November 6, and to Pa-Paw Jeff, Ma-Ma WeWe and Ryan whose birthdays were in September.



Aiden turns 1

Aiden Ray Labor celebrated his first birthday on November 22. He is pictured with big brother Brandon Ty Labor. Happy birthday, Aiden, from Mom, April, Dad B.J., PaPaw Hardy, Grannie Tammie, Uncle Tyler, MaMaw Ruby, and all his other family and friends.



Happy birthday wishes

Carla, Dallas, Dalton and Dillon Boehm would like to send happy birthday wishes to Teddy Boehm who turned 46 years old on November 10.



Quinton turns 8

Birthday wishes go out to Quinton Post of Oklahoma City. He turned 8 on November 27. He is the son of Martha Cotanny and Clint Post of Oklahoma City, and has a sister, Lupita. We are so proud of you and keep up the good work.



Dylen is 2

Karenda Ludlow and Jeff Cotton would like to wish their little man, Dylen Jeffrey Cotton, a very happy second birthday on December 14.



Look who’s turning 3

Happy birthday to Derek Rice from his big sister, Khrystian, and his little brother, Ryan. Derek turned 3 on November 25. He is the son of David and Traci Rice of Greenville, Texas. Proud grandparents are Pat and Virginia Espinoza of Boswell and Don Swatek of Floyd, Texas.



Boerners are inspiration to Healthy Marriages/Healthy Kids Project

Glen Wesley Boerner, better known as Bud, is a Choctaw from Talihina. He was serving with the U.S. Army in Germany when he met his bride, Helga. They were married in 1962 and moved back to the States where they raised their two children. They also now enjoy their seven grandchildren.

Bud retired from the Army in 1974 and moved to Buffalo Valley where they both still live on the ranch he has cared for since retirement.

Bud and Helga are an inspiration to many with their lives of service. They are active in their church and involved with activities at the Veterans Center in Talihina and the community at the Choctaw Center in Wilburton. Helga has even learned to speak Choctaw and



is the only woman who speaks Choctaw with a German accent. Bud can understand her Choctaw language well.

They attribute the success of their 44 years of marriage to a strong faith in God and a little give and take.

Congratulations to Bud and Helga Boerner, living examples of faith in action. May God

continue to bless them!

The next PREP workshop is scheduled.

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

January 20, 2007

Choctaw Nation

Field Office

1705 W. Locust

Durant, Oklahoma

Contact Donna Holder

at 580-920-1801

Remember, anyone who attended a PREP workshop is eligible to win a trip to Branson/Silver Dollar City. Couples who attend a workshop create more fun and better communication in their relationship.

Please help your child with the poster/essay contest of “What healthy marriage means to them.”

Ways to show your spouse you care

Submitted by Coalition members

1. Surprise gifts/surprise date night/ be thoughtful
2. Do their chores for a day and let them relax
3. Give him the other side of the bed
4. Rub feet
5. Rub back
6. Hire a housekeeper for a month
7. Schedule a family photography event
8. Compliment each other
9. Dance with him
10. Put a blanket in the backyard and lay together watching a full moon
11. Sticky notes
12. Recreational events (hiking, walking)
13. Picnic
14. Cook special meals just for them

Workshop for Couples

Featuring PREP (Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program)

January 20, 2007

at the Choctaw Nation Field Office
1705 W. Locust, Durant, Oklahoma

Classes: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Lunch: noon

For couples who want to build a better relationship, or couples who are thinking about getting together.

– Registration Form –

Name _____

Spouse Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Signature _____

Fax to 918-567-3917

For more information call 918-567-3386

Topics covered include Communication; Preserving Fun and Friendship; Maintaining Commitment and Trust, and Learning and Identifying Danger Signs and Avoiding Common Pitfalls. Couples completing the course will be entered for a grand prize.

Bells renew vows

William “Bill” and Barbara Bell were married on September 8, 1961, and renewed their vows on September 9, 2006, in the presence of their five children, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, family and friends, It was a beautiful ceremony in Riverside, California, near their home. They raised five wonderful children. Barbara was given away by her brother, Mike, and her sister, Marcia, and all their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren had a part in the wedding ceremony. It was a memorable event for all who attended. Congratulations!



Touchstones celebrate 60th anniversary

The children of Raymond and Betty Touchstone honored them with a 60th wedding anniversary at the Lukfata Baptist Church on October 28. Raymond Touchstone and Betty Markham were married on October 31, 1946, at DeQueen Arkansas. They have lived in the Lukfata Community most of their married life. They have two daughters, Betty Lawrence and Janet Taylor; two granddaughters, Denise Bush and Teresa Lawrence; one grandson, Michael Elrod; four great-granddaughters, Brittany Foshee, J.J. Coe, Lacey and Kelsie Elrod; and two great-grandsons, Colton Elrod and Joe Blaze Bush. Mr. Touchstone is a retired postman from Broken Bow and his wife is retired from working at the Broken Bow Nursing Home.

Criswell, Sutton wed

Robert and Betsy Statham Criswell of Muldrow announce the engagement and marriage of their daughter, Misty Dawn, to Tony Dewayne Sutton, son of Gary and Donna Sutton of Liberty. The ceremony was held November 11, 2006, at St. Paul’s Methodist Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Ms. Criswell is the granddaughter of the late J.F. “Bill” and Mildred Stratham of Spiro and Allie Mae Folsom, an original enrollee of the Choctaw Nation. Mr. Sutton is the grandson of the late Earnest and Edna Sutton of Liberty, Jess Lee Riddle of Roland and Ruth Ellen Lock of Woodward.



Hall, DeNu exchange vows

Congratulation on your recent wedding Bob V. Hall and Feliz E. DeNu. They were married on September 23. John and Sally Hall are the parents of Feliz. Bob was born in Talihina in 1980. This young couple will make their home in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Wedding set for next year

Erlinda Vallo Bravo and Charles Benton Williams of Del City, Oklahoma, are excited to announce their engagement and upcoming marriage in 2007. She is from the Philippines and he is from McAlester, Oklahoma. Erly has a degree in medical research and Charles has worked for the State of Oklahoma for the last seven years with the Department of Public Safety and the Oklahoma Military Department. Both are proud to be Christians and attend Cornerstone Family Church in Midwest City, Oklahoma.



Choctaw Nation sends Jr. Golf team to Oklahoma City

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma sent a Jr. Golf team to Oklahoma City to compete in the annual Red Earth Golf Classic held at the Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club. They shot a score of 12 under par which was the lowest score of the Jr. Golf teams that were competing in the tournament. The team was taken by Kevin Gwin who is the youth activity coordinator for the Choctaw Nation.

Team members include from left to right: Ryan Miller, Velma Alma; Matthew Roberts, Quinton; Tanner Gwin, Durant; Chase Pletcher, Ardmore; and Kannon Jackson, Durant.

Ryan Miller from Velma Alma also won the longest drive competition for the tournament.

Ivy and Daniel celebrate

Happy birthday to Ivy and Daniel Goad from Grandma Cathy and Papa Darrell. Ivy celebrated her third birthday on September 11 and Daniel turned 8 on October 14. Their parents are Ivan and Alecia Goad of Muskogee. Grandparents include Darrell and Cathy Bolin, also of Muskogee.



Happy birthday

Happy birthday wishes are sent to David Anderson of Joplin, Missouri, from Mom and Dad, Joplin; mother-in-law Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; mother-in-law Janis Walker, Joplin; wife Joyce Tallant Anderson, Joplin; daughter Dezirai and son-in-law Bill; grandkids Alisha, Justin and Jayden, Matt and Megan, Madison, Jack and Jessica, Brandon, Blake, Kelly and Noah, all of Joplin; son Tim, daughter-in-law Teresa and granddaughters Ocean and Cheyann; son Kenny and daughter-in-law Heather, Joplin.



Birthday wishes

Happy birthday to Ocean Rickey of Joplin, Missouri. You are sweet and pretty as a princess. From your family, Tim, Dad, Teresa, Mom, sister Cheyann of Joplin; grandma Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; Grandma Walker, Joplin; Grandma Joyce and Pa Dave, Joplin; Aunt Dezirai, Uncle Bill, cousins Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake, Kelly and Noah, and Uncle Kenny and Aunt Heather, all of Joplin.



Teresa celebrates birthday

Happy birthday to Teresa Rickey of Joplin, Missouri, from her family – mother and father-in-law Joyce and Dave; grandma-in-law Ann Tallant, Bakersfield, California; grandmother-in-law Janis Walker, Joplin; husband Tim and daughters Ocean and Cheyann, Joplin; sister-in-law Dezirai and brother-in-law Bill, nieces and nephews Alisha, Justin, Jayden, Matt, Megan, Madison, Jack, Jessica, Brandon, Blake, Kelly and Noah, and brother-in-law Kenny and sister-in-law Heather, all of Joplin.



Honor student

John Lee Colescott Jr., a ninth-grader at Boswell School, has been inducted into the 2006-07 National Honor Roll. John celebrated his 15th birthday on November 9. He is the son of Cindy Robinson and John Lee Colescott Sr. Mom, Cassandra and Dakota Tiff just want to let you know how proud they are of you.



Happy eighth birthday

Birthday wishes go out to Elizabeth “Bea” LeFlore who turned 8 on December 5. Bea plays ball, gymnastics and is a member of Girl Scouts. She enjoys pow-wows, dancing and learning off of the Internet. Happy birthday! From Mom, Dad, Grandma Freida, Grandma Sheryl, Uncle Troy, Auntie Kathy, the LeFlore family, Auntie Shayne, Uncle Chris, the Alexander family, the Rice family, Aurora Lee, baby Johnathon, Jovana, Checotah, Harry, Kristen, Gage, Elijah, Kayten, Trinity, Nizhoni, and all the rest of her families and friends.



Happy fourth birthday

Kenneth Long Jr., the son of Kenneth and Crystal Long of Talihina, enjoys playing with his sister, Kyleigh, as well as riding his dirt bike and tending to the cows. His grandma says happy birthday Bubba!



Happy fifth birthday

Birthday wishes go out to Kelli Hilton of Tuskahoma. She is the daughter of Charles Hilton Jr. and Patricia Burgan of Tuskahoma and Michelle Joiner of Idabel. Kelli is enrolled at Albion Public School. She is enjoying her new sister, Charley, who was born on October 22. Kelli also enjoys playing with her dogs. Happy birthday from Grandma, PaPa and Dililah.



Happy birthday to Katrina

Katrina Taylor will celebrate her birthday on December 14. She is the daughter of Phil Bohanon of Sobol.



Best wishes

Happy birthday to Sequina Cogburn on November 13. Sequina enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Best wishes from Aunt Sue.



Happy birthday to Stephanie

Belated birthday wishes go out to Stephanie Bohanon on November 13. Happy birthday and best wishes from Mom.



Happy 78th birthday

Happy 78 birthday to Wilson Taylor on December 1. Wilson is the son of Ida Taylor of Sobol. He enjoys riding his 4-wheeler and spending time with his huge family.



Cousins celebrate 19th

Birthday wishes go out Dali-lah Hilton who will celebrate her birthday on December 16 and her cousin, Tiffinie Bohanon, will celebrate her birthday on December 15. Both girls will be 19.



Davidson family celebrates birthdays

Celebrating birthdays in October were Aubrey Davidson on October 6 and Glen Davidson on October 31. Pictured with them is Dustin who would like to wish his dad and brother a happy birthday.





Tribal Chaplain Bertram Bobb, Major General Leroy Sisco and Chief Gregory E. Pyle

We Salute Our Veterans



The Choctaw Nation Tribal Council, Tribal Judge Lois Burton and hundreds of veterans and their families attended the November 11 ceremony.

Ceremony

Continued from Page 1
my dad. He is a veteran and he is my hero.”

General Leroy Sisco looked over the huge gathering and said, “Before they were even citizens of this country, 92 percent of Native Americans who were eligible to go to war stood in line to volunteer and serve, many with their own weapons. If the rest of the country would have had that attitude, the draft wouldn’t have been necessary. Every one who raises their hand and takes the oath is saying ‘I will die for this country.’ And that is what many have done.

“We have an opportunity to thank those who are still alive. I want all of you to think what YOU as an individual can do,” said Sisco.



Cathryn Jennifer Burris Kniss, Martha Taylor and Karen Burris McConnell are pictured by the wall bearing the name of family member Tony Burris, a Medal of Honor recipient who was killed in Korea.



The Choctaw Nation Color Guard salutes.



A group from Talihina sings “America the Beautiful.”



Miss Choctaw Nation Courtney Baker.



Dixon Lewis, Richard Adams and Hershell Prentiss.



Norris and Brenda Samuels and Chief Pyle.



Chock Charleston and Chief Pyle.



James Dry and his uncle, Aaron Dry.



Esther Naylor tells Chief Pyle that her son, Clyde E. Carter Jr., was killed in Vietnam and his name is on the memorial at Tushka Homma.



Frank Watson and son Glen.

From the war zone ...

Hello everyone.
It’s hard to believe that it’s been a little over three months since we arrived in Kuwait. Even though many times the days seem so routine, the time has gone by so fast because of so much work. And now it’s November. Veterans Day is just ahead of us and Thanksgiving is around the corner followed by Christmas and New Year’s Day. Even here those days will be celebrated. Some Soldiers, because the two-week Rest & Recreation leave schedule has begun, will be fortunate to celebrate a holiday at home with family and friends.
All of these special days during the coming weeks underscore something important. We are a nation at war and the soldiers in our Army have suffered death and sometimes grievous wounds at the hands of our enemy. Even our own battalion has suffered since our arrival in-country. Unfortunately, that is a part of the “profession of arms,” and it is a profession we have chosen.
For those of us who are Native Americans, I suspect it is more than a profession – it is a heritage of being warriors. It is a heritage of warriors, when not seeing to the welfare of the young and old, who fought to protect their family, their clan, and their tribe and nation. It is a heritage that has claimed and will claim warriors, whether Choctaw, Cherokee, Lakota, Shoshone,

or any of the several hundred tribes that still exist.
Because our time in this world is so fleeting and sometimes so suddenly ended, the coming weeks should be even more special, and open doors that are sometimes closed. Some of us will be waving flags at a Veterans Day Parade, or be seated around the dining room table with family and friends sharing egg nog and turkey, or opening brightly wrapped and beribboned presents. Others will be seated in the weapons turret of an up-armored HMMWV behind machine guns and scanning a desert roadside for improvised explosive devices, or sharing a holiday meal with buddies in a noisy mess hall, or looking through mounds of arriving boxes, hoping to find one with their name on it.
Wherever we are, maybe it’s time for some of us to take the first step to mend bridges, heal old hurts, and dismiss grudges. And if someone else takes the first step, maybe it’s time to hold the door open and say, “Welcome.”
Life is so fleeting there shouldn’t be time or room to nurture an inner darkness.
Have a great week and a great Holiday Season.



Crossley honored by National World War II Museum

Dan Crossley of Moore was inducted into the National World War II Museum on October 10, 2006. “In grateful appreciation for your outstanding support as a charter member of the National World War II Museum.”
A veteran of World War II, Mr. Dan Crossley served in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Ormsby. Went to sea as captain of Landing Boat #15. He made 17 major invasions beginning at Guadalcanal and numerous sea and air battles in the Pacific. He was in Tokyo Bay alongside the Battleship U.S.S. Missouri with General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz there to sign the peace treaty on September 2, 1945. Dan received seven Bronze Stars,



one Silver Star, and all Pacific Battle Ribbons. He separated from service on December 3, 1945.
Dan was one of three elected by the Choctaws as councilman large and served under David Gardner, Chief. He also served on the Intertribal Council a number of years.
Dan was elected by members of Iron Workers union local # 48 as President and served in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He retired in 1985. He was a member of Local #48 for 58 years. He is a Mason of 55 years, a member of Guthrie Consistency and a member of India Temple Shrine. Dan also founded Dan’s Famous Indian Taco in 1978, and it is still a thriving business.

Lance Corporal Rusty A. Patterson

Lance Corporal Rusty A. Patterson is a May 2005 graduate of Muskogee High School. He joined the Marines Corps on the deferred enlistment program. His basic training was at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California. He is now a Combat Engineer, serving at Al-Assad Air Base, Iraq. His home base is in Beaufort, South Carolina.
Rusty’s great-great-uncle served on Iwo Jima. He is the son of Sherry Ragsdale and Dennis Patterson, and the grandson of Thelma and Jerry Strickland of Muskogee and he is the great-great-grandson of original enrollee Richard A. Sockey.



Broken Bow holds Appreciation Dinner

Dayla, Nikki and Andrew Amos bring Chief and Pat Pyle a porch swing, a gift from the Broken Bow center.



James and Verna Fails and Bobbie Frost.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey thanks everyone for his gifts.



Dora Fowler, Wanda Frazier and Mary Lee.



Marlin Ashalintubbi.



Chief Gregory E. Pyle, Choctaw Nation Little Miss Emily Rowell, District 2 Jr. Miss Whitney Shomo and Tribal Councilman Mike Amos.



Avis Blackman and 16-month-old grandson, Titus.

Choctaw Nation shares link between substance abuse and heart disease.

American Indian Magazine

Smoking can kill. Alcohol and drugs ruin lives. But many people might not be aware of the deadly effects substance abuse can have on a person's heart.

When Janeen Gray became manager of the Core Capacity Cardiovascular Disease program for the Choctaw Nation in April 2004, she found that most of the people targeted by the program were not interested in coronary heart disease awareness. After she conducted a survey of the people in the Choctaw Nation, Janeen discovered that substance use (cigarettes, alcohol, and illicit drugs), not heart disease, was their primary concern.

The Core Capacity team then came up with the idea to show the link between substance abuse and heart disease. "Once we made the connection between substance use and heart health, the program got so interesting and exciting," Janeen says.

Heart disease is a prevalent problem among American Indians, and substance abuse makes the problem even worse. In fact, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, American Indians are disproportionately affected by substance abuse as opposed to the total U.S. population.

Statistics show that about 53 percent of American Indians aged 12 and older used cigarettes in the past year, versus 31 percent of the total U.S. population. In addition, about 20 percent of American Indians aged 12 and over used an illicit drug in the past year, versus just 12 percent of the total U.S. population.

The Core Capacity CVD program is funded by the Center for Disease Control for the purpose of specifically addressing cardiovascular disease. But because research from institutions such as the CDC and National Institute of Health shows that substance abuse directly impacts the health of the heart, the team was able to incorporate the priority of the Choctaw Nation people into the Core Capacity program. This gave them the opportunity to



raise awareness of heart disease by addressing substance abuse; a need that the Choctaw Nation felt was the most important in their community.

Janeen says that Choctaw Nation Chief Gregory E. Pyle emphasizes the importance of a healthy nation, including not only physical health, but the health of the family status as well. This emphasis on health is why the Core Capacity program's new focus is significant. "It is so apparent what substance abuse does to families," Janeen says.

The Core Capacity team recently presented at Oklahoma City Indian Clinic's TURTLE Camp. The presentation fit right in the camp's objective: educating American Indian youth on healthful habits and diabetes prevention. An important aspect of the Core Capacity program is that it has gone beyond service to the Choctaw Nation and speaks to American Indians and Alaskan Natives at many national conferences. The Core Capacity staff is also working hard to share their information with other tribes within the State of Oklahoma.

The Core Capacity team continues to educate communities on the link between heart disease and substance abuse. Other members of the team are Joe Bray, statistician; Jon Hotubbee, community coordinator, and Jeanie Jackson, community resource technician.

Substance abuse and your child

The use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs is one of the biggest problems facing young people today. As a parent, you can do a lot to prevent your child from using these substances.

1. Talk with your child honestly. Don't wait to have "the drug talk" with your child. Make discussions about tobacco, alcohol, and drugs part of your daily conversation. Be clear about family rules for use of substances.

2. Really listen to your child. Encourage your child to share questions and concerns about tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Do not do all the talking or give long lectures.

3. Help your child develop self-confidence. Look for all the good things in your child – and then tell your child how proud you are. If you need to correct your child, criticize the action,

not your child.

4. Help your child develop strong values. Talk about your family values. Explain that these are the standards for *your* family, no matter what other families might decide.

5. Be a good example. Look at your own habits and thoughts about tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs. Your actions speak louder than words.

6. Help your child deal with peer pressure and acceptance. Discuss the importance of being an individual and the meaning of real friendships.

7. Make family rules that help your child say "no." Talk with your child about your expectation that he will say "no" to drugs. Spell out what will happen if he breaks these rules and prepared to follow through if necessary.

8. Encourage healthy, cre-

ative activities. Look for ways to get your child involved in activities that reduce boredom. Encourage positive friendships and interests. Look for activities you and your child can do together.

9. Team up with other parents. Work with other parents to build a drug-free environment for children. The best way to stop a child from using drugs is to stop his friends from using them too.

10. Know what to do if your child has a drug problem. Realize that no child is immune to drugs. Learn the signs of drug use. Take seriously any concerns you hear from friends, teachers, or other kids about your child's possible drug use. Trust your instincts, if you truly feel that something is wrong with your child, there probably is. If there is a problem, seek professional help.

Make your reservations for Labor Day RV sites

– Payments

All 2007 reservations will be made by mail.

Reservations must be post-dated January 1, 2007, or later. Reservation must be paid in full in the form of a money order or cashier's check.

NO PERSONAL CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED. All personal checks will be returned without reservations being made. The fee for the weekend's camping from Thursday through Monday will be \$50.

– Vehicles with RVs

The payment of \$50 allows one (1) RV/travel trailer and one (1) vehicle into the RV area. A \$10 fee will be charged for each additional vehicle pass requested. Due to limited space, no reservations will be made for picnic tables, tents, or boats in the RV area. No tents will be allowed to hook up to an RV outlet. The \$50 camping fee is for one RV only.

– Early Arrivals

An additional fee will be charged for those entering early. A charge of \$10 per day will be charged for electrical hook-up per day per RV/camper.

– Refunds

No refunds will be given after August 16, 2007. All pads not filled by 6 p.m. on Saturday will be offered to those on a waiting list. A fee will be charged to these RV campers.

– Phone Reservations

NO PHONE RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED — NO EXCEPTIONS. One reservation per application. We will do our best to respect requests for preferred RV pads, however cannot guarantee you

2007 RV Space Reservation

No reservations will be accepted prior to January 1

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Daytime Phone Number

RV self-contained camper description and length:

Number of slide-outs

– Only one (1) reservation per application –

Please return to:
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
ATTN: Margaret Jackson
P.O. Drawer 1210
Durant, OK 74702

Please return the above form with your reservation. Please include a copy of your CDIB. Be sure to include the length of your RV or camper and the number of slide-outs. We need a daytime telephone number should we need to contact you. Thank you.

will get the one requested. Reservations will be dated and time stamped as received.

– General Parking

No RVs will be allowed to park in general parking.

– Animals

Dogs will NOT be allowed in the festival area with the exception of dogs owned by physically challenged individuals. Respect your neighbor and clean up after your animal.

– Sanitation

A sign-up sheet will be provided at the RV booth for those

wishing to have on-site dumping of gray and black water tanks. Payment will be made to employees at the RV booth. There will be a \$50 fine for anyone caught dumping gray or black water in the RV area. A local dumping station is provided for individual dumping by sanitation personnel. A second warning would mean eviction of the camping area.

– Tow away of vehicles

Any vehicle blocking access roads/areas between RV rows may be towed at owner's expense.

To the youth of the nation ...Feelings left behind

By Heather N. Hatcher
Choctaw Nation
Youth Advisory Board

I can't explain what someone is feeling like when they commit suicide, but I can tell you about the feelings that are left behind. Anytime someone takes their life it affects everyone that their life has touched. Parents lose a child that they gave life to and raised. Siblings lose a great friend that they shared the pains of growing up with. Friends lose someone to

laugh and share tears with. The community loses a contribution to society.

They all gain an emptiness in their hearts where they all share the same question. "What could I have done differently that could have changed things?"

Signs to watch for:

- Talking about suicide
- Making statements about feeling helpless, or worthless
- A deepening depression
- Preoccupation with death

• Taking unnecessary risks or exhibiting self-destructive behavior

- Out of character behavior
- A loss of interest in the things one cares about
- Visiting or calling people one cares about
- Making arrangements; setting one's affairs in order
- Giving prized possessions away

If you are experiencing crisis call: **1-800-SUICIDE**

Quality of life
**PEACE
COMFORT
DIGNITY**

The **TOTAL CARE HOSPICE** staff are committed to giving comprehensive, compassionate care to people with terminal illness in familiar surroundings and support to their loved ones.

Services include:

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- durable medical equipment
- speech, physical, occupational therapy
- pharmaceuticals
- in-home & respite care
- medical supplies
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- social worker
- bereavement

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*District Thanksgiving celebrations were held throughout the Choctaw Nation.
More photos will be included in the January edition of the BISHINIK.*



Area residents visit during Durant’s community Thanksgiving dinner held in the Bingo pavilion.



Councilman Ted Dosh, Assistant Chief Mike Bailey, Chief Gregory E. Pyle, and District 9 Little Miss Kayleigh Powell.



Stacy and Dustin Griggs of Clayton, with Kaylyn and Jeffrey, attend the Tuskahoma Thanksgiving dinner.



Councilman Jack Austin greets Ruby Anderson as she arrives at the cafeteria on the Council Grounds.



Assistant Chief Mike Bailey stops to say hello to Mary White of Tuskahoma.



Councilman Anthony Dillard wishes Lorene Lovell a happy birthday on November 8. She turned 93. Lorene is very active with activities at the center.



Fred and Lavada Duke are among the Atoka area citizens to attend the dinner.



Atoka Travel Plaza Manager Kim Eberl and Director Brian McClain enjoy the fellowship.



Alvie Carney, pictured with Councilman James Frazier and Chief Gregory E. Pyle, was recently honored for his service in the Marine Corps.



All smiles in Crowder.



Martin and Frances Killingsworth of Eufaula.



Councilman Bob Pate, Rhoda Anderson, Margaret Richardson and Veda Blumenthal gather in McAlester.



The McAlester Community Dinner was a hit for Ethan Watkins and mom Jennifer Watkins.



In McAlester, Candace Jewell cuddles with mom Jean Jewell and great-grandmother Juanita Cochran.



Dutch Crews visits with Assistant Chief Mike Bailey at Hugo’s Thanksgiving festivities.



Gavyn Gallant shows Chief Pyle his baseball trophy and team picture. He plays shortstop.



The Chief enjoys talking with Hugo area residents.

Taekwon-Do club has strong showing at Ada competition

Six local Taekwon-Do students brought home a total of 16 medals in a 2006 Oklahoma Invitational Championship tournament held in Ada. Participants came from throughout Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado to compete in the tournament, sanctioned by the Yom Chit Taekwon-Do Association. The team pattern performed by the five-person “Red River Wrecking Crew” earned third place. Team patterns competitors included Brad Wingfield, Ted Williams and Gabrielle Williams all of Durant, Marilla Parker of Bokchito and Taron Graves of Calera. Ted Williams was the Novice Adult Patterns division, finishing third in the Adult Patterns division, finishing third in the Adult Novice Heavyweight Men’s Sparring division and third in the Adult Men’s Braking. Taron Graves took first place in the Adult Novice Heavyweight Men’s Sparring and finished second in Novice Adult Patterns. Brad Wingfield earned second place in Adult Men’s Breaking, third in both Advanced Adult Male Sparring and third in the Advanced Adult Patterns category. Marilla Parker won the Novice Women’s Sparring division; also earning second place in the Adult Women’s Breaking division and third place in the Novice Adult Patterns. Lauren Williams of Durant finished third in the Junior division of Novice Patterns. “All of the students showed great spirit,” said Red River instructor Amy Wingfield. “This was a fairly large tournament, and it gave us an



excellent opportunity to compete against other who are working toward the same goals.”
For more information, visit www.redrivertkd.com or call Red River Taekwon-Do at (580) 924-7968.

Locals earn medals in Taekwon-Do tournament

Seven Red River Taekwon-Do students earned a total of 19 medals and one Grand Champion award in the 2006 Kwan Chang Invitational Championship in late August at the Choctaw Wellness Center in Durant. Participants came from as far as Okemah and Hugo to compete in the regional Taekwon-Do tournament.

Marilla Parker of Bokchito was named Female Grand Champion, receiving the Kwan Chang Award from Mr. Michael Holloway, Chief Referee and sixth-degree blackbelt from Ada. Parker earned a gold medal in Adult Women’s Breaking, as well as silver medals in her Sparring and Patterns divisions. She was also part of a three-person entry in Team Patterns competition. Team competition features choreographed patterns performed by teams of three to five competitors. The events judged on accuracy, timing, technique and creativity. The team pattern performed by the three-person “Red River Wrecking Crew” earned second place; medalists included Marilla Parker,

Brad Wingfield of Durant and Taron Graves of Calera. Brad Wingfield earned gold medals in Adult Men’s Advanced Sparring and Adult Men’s Breaking, also earning third place medals in his Patterns and Blindfold Patterns divisions.

Taron Graves took first place in Adult Men’s Novice Patterns, also placing third in his Sparring and Blindfold Patterns divisions. Newcomer Dusty Wingfield of Caddo earned second-place medals in the Adult Men’s Novice Sparring and Breaking events. Ted Williams of Calera finished second in Adult Men’s Novice Blindfold Patterns and third in Adult Men’s Breaking. Williams’ daughters, Lauren and Gabrielle, each earned a medal, finishing second in Patterns and Blindfold Patters respectively. The Williams family also finished fourth in teams Patterns competition with their “Achofa” team entry.
Red River Taekwon-Do students Bubba Johnson of Durant and Stephanie Parker of Bokchito got a full day of scorekeeping experience, keeping both rings running smoothly.



Red River Taekwon-Do students pose with medals earned in the 2006 Kwan Chang Invitational Championship Taekwon-Do tournament. Front row: Lauren Williams, Ted Williams and Gabrielle Williams, all of Durant; back row: Bubba Johnson, Marilla Parker of Bokchito, Taron Graves of Calera, Brad Wingfield of Durant and Dusty Wingfield of Caddo.

“It was a fun day of competition, and one of the smoothest-running tournaments I’ve seen,” said Amy Wingfield. “The Wellness Center is an outstanding facility, and the staff members really went out of their way to make sure everything was perfect.”
The Kwan Chang tournament gets its name from its founder,

sixth-degree blackbelt receives a pen name from his or her instructor upon being promoted to third-degree blackbelt; Holloway’s pen name is Kwan Chang, meaning “hard-nose fighter.”
For any information, visit www.redrivertkd.com or call Red River Taekwon-Do at 580-924-7968.

Bryan County Teacher of the Year

Charles “Dusty” Smallwood, representing Bennington Schools, was named Bryan County Secondary Teacher of the Year on September 1 in an awards ceremony at the Bryan County Teachers Meeting at SOSU in Durant. Bryan County has nine schools, and awards outstanding teachers on the elementary, secondary and administrative levels. This award now qualifies Smallwood to apply for the state level award.



Smallwood has taught Agriculture Education for 23 years, serving Bennington School for 15 years and Clayton School for eight years. He graduated from Rattan High School in 1978 and attended Murray State College where he was a member of the Livestock Judging Team. Smallwood then graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1983 and was active in collegiate FFA.
Outstanding teaching has been a long standing tradition in the Smallwood family. Smallwood’s parents, Leo and Jane Smallwood, both taught for many years in the Rattan Public Schools, and all five of his brothers and sisters obtained teaching degrees. His mother, Jane, and his wife, Karen, have both been previous Pushmataha County Teachers of the Year. His sister, Nancy Rose, is a previous Rattan Teacher of the Year and his brother, Steve Smallwood, represented Broken Bow schools as a previous Oklahoma State Teacher of the Year.
Smallwood resides in Clayton with wife Karen who teaches elementary music and middle school language arts at Clayton Public Schools. His daughter, Sara-Jane, is a junior agriculture communications major at OSU and his son, Blair, is a freshman at Clayton High School. Smallwood is an active member of the Clayton First Baptist Church.

Give the gift of a lift this holiday season!

Friends don’t let friends drive drunk

The holiday season between Thanksgiving and New Year’s is one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving.
In fact, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1,210 people across America, just during the month of December 2004, were killed in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level of .01 or higher. Of those, 1,054 had an illegal BAC level of .08 or above. So “Give the Gift of a Lift” this holiday season, helping to make sure no one gets behind the wheel while impaired.
With all of the office and holiday parties that will take place during this holiday season, this

is a critically important time of the year to make sure you designate a sober driver before the parties begin and to always remember that “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk.”
If you are organizing or hosting a party this month and plan on serving alcoholic beverages, remind your guests to designate their sober driver in advance and provide a variety of non-alcoholic beverages to those designated drivers. Then at the end of the party, make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver or make arrangements to get them home safely.
Other ways to avoid tragedy are:
• If you’re impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit, or call a sober friend or family member to get you home safely;
• Report impaired drivers to law enforcement;
• Always buckle up – it’s your best defense against an impaired

driver;
• Spend the night where the activity is being held and sleep it off.
Impaired driving is no accident – nor is it a victimless crime. It is one of America’s deadliest problems. In 2004, over 15,000 people died in alcohol-related crashes involving a driver or a motorcycle operator with a BAC level of .01 or higher. Of those, nearly 13,000 had an illegal BAC level of .08 or above.
This article was provided by NHTSA holiday planner 2005 and is sponsored by Choctaw Nation Injury Prevention Program. If you have any questions regarding this article, injury prevention tips, or need your child’s car seat inspected, please call 877-285-6893 and speak with Beckie Morris, Injury Prevention Coordinator, or e-mail me at RMorris@choctawnation.com.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION

ANTLERS

January 1: Closed for Tribal Holiday
January 2: Poteau (A-L) 9-2 (warehouse closed for site)
January 4: Idabel 9-11; Broken Bow 12-2 (warehouse closed for site)
January 9: Bethel 9-10:30; Smithville 12-2(warehouse closed for site)
January 11: Poteau (M-Z) 9-2 (warehouse closed for site)
January 30-31: Closed for Inventory
Warehouse open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Jan. 3, 5, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 29

DURANT

January 1: Closed for Tribal Holiday
January 30-31: Closed for Inventory
Warehouse open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Jan. 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 29

McALESTER

January 1: Closed for Tribal Holiday
January 3: Stigler 9-12 (warehouse closed for site)
January 30-31: Closed for Inventory
Warehouse open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Jan. 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 29

CHOCTAW NATION FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Open 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday thru Friday
We will take lunch from 11:30 to 12 noon

WAREHOUSES

Antlers: Choctaw Community, 306 S.W. “O” St., 580-298-6443
Durant: Warehouse, 100 Waldron Dr., 580-924-7773
McAlester: Warehouse, 1212 S. Main St., 918-420-5716

FOOD DISTRIBUTION SITES

Bethel: Choctaw Community Building
Broken Bow: Choctaw Family Investment Center
Idabel: Choctaw Village Shopping Center
Poteau: Choctaw Family Investment Center
Smithville: Choctaw Community Center
Stigler: Choctaw Community Center

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WI Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Rachel Shelton who was named Teacher of the Year at Washington Irving Elementary School in Durant. The award was presented October 26 at school by Principal Katy Pruitt. Rachel and her family are attending a reception hosted by the Durant Education Association on December 4 for all of the Teacher of the Year finalists.
Rachel has been teaching for 10 years, beginning with a special education class in Texas. She then taught third grade until moving back to Durant. After a year’s hiatus she taught first grade at George Washington Elementary for three years before transferring to Washington Irving Elementary four years ago. She attended Washington Irving as a child and is now teaching first grade in the same classroom that she attended first grade in.
Rachel graduated Durant High School in 1990 and Southeastern Oklahoma State University in 1994. After coming back to Durant, she began master’s classes at SOSU and graduated with a master’s degree in school counseling in 2001. She and husband Chris Shelton are celebrating their twelfth anniversary this Christmas and have two daughters, Maradeth and Emma.



Cariker earns juris doctorate

Emily Cariker graduated May 13 with a juris doctorate from the University of Oklahoma. Emily was among 162 law school graduates. She is pictured here with Dean Andrew M. Coats. Emily is the daughter of Chris and Pegi Cariker and the granddaughter of Margaret Cariker of Whitefield and Joe and Emily Wellborn of Humble, Texas. Cariker passed the bar exam on July 6. She was sworn into practice law at the 2005-06 swearing-in ceremony. Cariker was a member of the American Indian Law Review and served as the writing competition editor for 2006-07.

Courtesy of Stigler News Sentinel



Russell earns PhD

The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Higher Education Department would like to recognize and congratulate Deborah Louise Russell who graduated from the University of Oregon with a PhD in September 2006.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION						
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
JANUARY		1 HOLIDAY	2	3 Durant 10 am-12 pm	4	5 Idabel 10 am-2 pm
	7	8 Antlers by appt only	9 Stigler by appt only McAlester 10 am-2 pm	10	11	12 Broken Bow 10 am-2 pm
	14	15	16	17 Atoka 10 am-2 pm Coalgate 10:30-1:30	18	19 Poteau 11:30 am-1 pm
	21	22 Talihina 10 am-2 pm	23 Crowder and McAlester by appt only	24 Durant by appt only	25	26 Bethel by appt only
2007	28	29	30 Wilburton 10:30 am-2 pm	31 Wright City by appt only	A Vocational Rehabilitation representative will be available at the locations listed. A representative is available Monday thru Friday 8-4:30 except for holidays at the Hugo office.	

OBITUARIES

Freda Phaun Jones Martin

Freda Phaun Jones Martin, 70, passed away October 20, 2006. She was born September 17, 1936, in Haskell County, Oklahoma. She finished high school in Stigler and attended Northeastern State College at Tahlequah and Eastern Oklahoma A&M.

Freda made Lafayette her home for over 30 years. She was a cosmetologist and employed at Cosmetology Training Center. She was a charter member of the Hallmark National Collectors Club, a charter member of the Hallmark Collectors Club Joie de Vivre, a member of a Lafayette Financial Club and a member of Riverside Church of Christ. Freda was a loving daughter, sister, wife, mother and grandmother who was the light that lit the hearts of many. She will be remembered for devotion to life, family and friends and the many wonderful qualities she brought to the people that she loved. Her beautiful blue eyes, her contagious smile, her quick wit and humor will be missed by everyone who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her first mother, Cornelia Garland Jones; brother, Idus Edwin "Sonny" Jones; father, Guy Jones; her beloved second mother, Mary Blanche Bumpers Jones; and her husband, Kenneth Odell Martin.

Survivors include her loving children, daughter Misty Lynn Martin of Baton Rouge; son Edwin "Eddie" Martin and his wife, Joan Landreneau Martin, of Lafayette; and the light of her eyes, grandchildren Cole and Lauren Martin.



Charlotte Marie Amos

Charlotte Marie Amos passed away October 17, 2006. She was born October 24, 1971, in Oklahoma City, the daughter of Mitchell and Madeline Amos. She graduated high school in Oklahoma City and later moved to Tulsa where she lived for a short time until moving to Eufaula in the latter part of the 1990s. She held various jobs until her present position as a corrections officer with the Oklahoma Department of Corrections in McAlester.

Charlotte loved watching her sons grow and always showed her enthusiasm for their sports activities by attending all the events she could, usually with her mother, Madeline, at her side. Crocheting was also a favorite pastime as shown by the many items she has made and given to her family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Survivors include her mother, Madeline Amos of Eufaula; two sons, Cameron and Christian Amos, both of the home; aunts, Ruth and James Hedding of Tulsa; Kissie and George Mouse of Yukon, Ellen Jones of Blanchard, Armetta and Joe Looney of Davis, Arnetta Amos of Oklahoma City, and Alice Porter of Shawnee; uncles, Morris Amos of Oklahoma City, Thomas Fixico of Shawnee, Charles Hennehaw of Seminole; one great-aunt, Amelia Deer of Seminole, and several cousins and other relatives and friends.

Rev. Sylvester Amos

The Rev. Sylvester Amos, 86, of Hobart, Oklahoma, passed away November 3, 2006, at the VA Medical Center in Lawton. He was born September 23, 1920, in Duncan to Anthony and Sarah Foster Amos. He grew up and attended school in Eagletown, near the Kiamichi Mountains.

He entered the U.S. Army and served during World War II. He fought in the European Theatre and upon his honorable discharge in September of 1945, he was awarded the Purple Heart, Distinguished Unit Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Good Conduct Medal, EAME Service Ribbon and One Silver Service Star.

He married Nova Janet McNulty on December 21, 1949, in Tulsa. He attended Haskell College in Kansas, Bacone College in Muskogee and Northeastern College in Tahlequah, where he received a bachelor's degree. He then attended the University of Oklahoma, Norman, receiving his master's degree. He taught at Fort Sill Indian School for several years. Then, he answered God's call to the ministry and he moved to Michigan. He served in Home Missions for the United Pentecostal Church and worked among the Indian communities. He started new churches. At that time he also began work for the railroad. He was transferred to Baltimore, Maryland, and continued to work until his retirement after 20 years with the railroad. He continued to work diligently as a bi-vocational pastor and he began three new churches during his time in the northeast. He returned to Oklahoma, starting new churches in Saddle Mountain, Frederick and Hobart. He also pastored the Apostolic Faith Church in Frederick. He continued his Civil Service working for the Post Office in Hobart and Oklahoma City, retiring in 1996. He retired from the ministry at the age of 81.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Abel Thomas Amos and Raymond Amos; and one sister, Marie Amos.

Survivors include his wife, Nova of the home; four sons, Stanley John Amos and wife Jackie of Cool, California; Winston Anthony "Tony" Amos and wife Annette, of Burleson, Texas; David Allen Amos and wife Debbie of Rapid City, South Dakota; Nathan Keith Amos and wife Sherry of Rowlett, Texas; one daughter, Sarah Janette Amos of Hobart; one brother, Josiah "Doc" Amos of Oklahoma City; seven grandchildren, Randy, Krystal, Aaron, Ashley, Amy, Stephanie and Zachary; and one great-grandchild.



Brian Daniel McGee

Brian Daniel McGee, 18, passed away September 28, 2006, in Tulsa. He was born July 16, 1988, in Ada.

Brian attended the First Baptist Church in Antlers where he was a member of the youth center. He was an active young man who loved to hunt and fish and to modify cars. He liked to play Xbox games and was good at anything to do with computers. Brian enjoyed sports and was active in football, baseball and basketball.

Survivors include his parents, Alan and Anita Silvey Reich of Antlers; three sisters, Jamie Harp of Durant and Aleshia and Tiffany McGee of Antlers; grandparents, Virgil and Linda Silvey of Antlers; uncle, Ellis Silvey of Antlers; great-aunts, Elsie Walls of Rattan and Alla Mae Rosenthal of Antlers; nephew and niece, Michael Harp and Kassidy Rymel of Durant who looked up to their Uncle Brian as their "Superman Hero."

Brian will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.



Autie Thomas Trammell

Autie Thomas Trammell passed away August 16, 2006, at his home in Denver, Colorado, with his wife of 70 years at his side. He was born November 5, 1910, in Rush Springs and lived a long productive life. He retired to Lindsay, Oklahoma, after 20 years of working at the Colorado Mental Health Institute. He was a business owner and owned a motel, restaurant, two car washes, an antique store and an income tax business as well as two apartment houses in Pueblo, Colorado. Autie lived for his family who will remember him as intelligent, educated, caring and a source of comfort and assistance against all of life's vagaries. He never turned away a soul in need and he will be sorely missed as a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, brother and friend.

Survivors include his wife, Elva Stinnett Trammell; daughters, Berta Lea McConnell, Elva "Kathy" (Richard) Rousseau, and Betty Spinuzzi (Frank Sandoval); sisters, Hazel (Edgar) Cannon and Ruby Brewer; grandchildren, Lori Kuhlman, Sherri McConnell, Frank (Yvette) McConnell, Jerry Trammell, Jodi Read, Leroy Case, Robin (Billie Stroud) and Stephanie Case, Christopher (Nikki) Kapaun, Jonathon (Ivy) Kapaun, Eddie Rousseau, Janis (Matthew) Christopher and Kristi (Todd) Ausun; 18 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Mary Ann Hardesty Shanks

Mary Ann Hardesty Shanks, 68, passed away peacefully on October 20, 2006, in Southcrest Hospital in Tulsa. She was born May 7, 1938, in Soper, Oklahoma. A long-time resident of Okmulgee, she was much loved by her family and many in the community. The daughter of Charles Hardesty and Ila Josephine Oakes Hardesty, she was preceded in death by her parents and her beloved brother, Charles.

Survivors include her husband, Benny B. Shanks; sister, Judith Hoy; and four children, Delilah A. Jenkins, Benny W. Shanks, Ila L. Shanks and Vickie E. Shanks. She was blessed with six grandchildren, Justin B. Shanks, Benny W. Shanks Jr., Luke A. Shanks, Shasta A. Shanks, Mandy Shanks and Darek Capelle, as well as one great-grandson, Kayode D. Shanks.

Ann was the granddaughter of original enrollees Daniel Webster Oakes and Abigale Freeney Oakes.



Thurman Doyle Carr

Thurman Doyle Carr, 78, passed away October 24, 2006, in Oklahoma City. He was born January 9, 1928, in Durant, Oklahoma, to Sweeney and Zorah Carr. Thurman was married to Treacy Osborn.

He was preceded in death by his wife and his parents.

Survivors include a son, Thurman Doyle Carr Jr. of the home; daughter, Carolina Phillips of Oklahoma City; grandsons, Thomas Berry, R.D. Carr, Chris Phillips and K.C. Phillips; five great-grandchildren; two brothers, Marion Carr of Caney and Wayne Carr of Denison, Texas; four sisters, Juanita Taylor of Davis, California, Elaine Taylor of Caddo, Wanda Goolsby and Kaye Harber, both of Oklahoma City; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Todd A. Godfrey Sr.

Todd A. Godfrey Sr. passed away June 17, 2006, in Hurst, Texas. He was born July 26, 1916, in Blanco, Oklahoma.

Despite being deaf, he was a baseball pitcher in high school and did quite well.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Marcella Godfrey, and granddaughter, Jill Elizabeth Barham.

Survivors include his children, Todd Godfrey Jr., Bob Godfrey, Mary Scott and Shari Barham; eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.



Sylvia Mae Herndon

Sylvia Mae Hawkins Herndon passed away November 3, 2006. She was born on July 25, 1918, in Pawnee to Isaac and Ida Mae Hawkins. She was baptized in the Central Baptist Church of Clovis, New Mexico.

Sylvia met P.H. Herndon Sr. when he was a sheep rancher in Pawnee. They were married on July 14, 1936. P.H. and Sylvia moved to Clovis in 1941 and started ranching at Grier, New Mexico, where Sylvia became a homemaker and helped P.H. run the ranch. Her greatest enjoyment was her family. She was a loving mother and grandmother, whose whole life revolved around her family. Sylvia was very proud of her Choctaw heritage. Her mother, Ida Mae, was an original enrollee in the Choctaw tribe in Oklahoma. One of Sylvia's favorite sayings was "what goes around always comes around."

She was preceded in death by her husband, P.H., in 1978; her parents; two brothers, Nick Hawkins and Kenneth Hawkins; half-brothers, Engle Southard, Gentry Southard and Archie Southard; two half-sisters, Myra Givers and Eva Southard; one daughter, Jerry Roberts; one granddaughter, Wendi Homer; and one great-granddaughter, Allie Homer.

Survivors include two daughters, Patricia Lovelace (Tom) and Cindy Anderson (Leroy), all of Clovis; one son, P.H. Herndon Jr. (Barbie) of Hendersonville, Tennessee; grandchildren, Tammy Durbin (Bill) of Hammondsville, Ohio, Steven Roberts (Rhonda) of Clovis, Traci Bombarger (Chris) of Austin, Texas, Shalei and Melissa Erramouspe of Clovis, Caleb and Jennifer Herndon of Hendersonville, Roger (Kim) Billingsly and Deon Billingsly, all of Lubbock, Texas, Darance (Chrystal) Lewis and Pal Hawkins Herndon of Clovis; 10 great-grandchildren; one brother, Raymond Hawkins (Thelma) of Tulsa.

Edward G. Beal

Edward Guinn Beal, 86, passed away September 25, 2006. He was born July 12, 1920, in Eubanks, Oklahoma, the son of James Beal, an original Choctaw enrollee, and Minnie Beal.

He served with the U.S. Navy on the USS Sepulga prior to and during World War II. He was a Pearl Harbor survivor. After the war he was stationed at Samson Naval Base. After that he was a Naval instructor in Rochester, New York. Even when he broke his neck in a fall at his home, he continued to teach his classes. He was a businessman and worked with other businessmen in the community. He was well-known for being friendly and honest. He was respected in the community and was well-known for his sense of humor and warm smile. He will be truly missed.

Survivors include his wife, Virginia; children, Virginia (Sam) Brayla of Florida, Linda (Bob) Landley of Victor, Thomas J. Beal of Shortsville and Terry (Roger) Smith of Florida; 12 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three sisters and many nieces and nephews.

Verlon Oleta Long Gioka Cimino

Verlon Oleta Long Gioka Cimino, 92, passed away on October 11, 2006. Loving daughter of William Isaac and Flaurah Ward Long, she was born July 18, 1914, west of Shady Point in LeFlore County, Oklahoma. Verlon's mother was a granddaughter of Eliza LeFlore Ward, who traveled the Trail of Tears as a child of 12 years of age in 1832. Her folks settled at Scullyville, near Spiro, the Choctaw settlement. Her home county was named LeFlore after her Grannie's family.



At age 4, Verlon moved with her family to Poteau, the county seat in LeFlore County, where she attended school until graduating high school in 1933. In 1934, she entered Bacone Indian College in Muskogee, graduating in 1936 from junior college. This was one of her most memorable experiences, where she met and made lifelong friends with American Indians of different tribes. She then attended a four-year college at Tahlequah in Eastern Oklahoma, receiving her first teaching degree. She also attended college in Durant; University of Oklahoma, Norman; and University of New York, Buffalo and Syracuse, to finish her master's in teaching degree. Her 30-year teaching career began in a one-room schoolhouse and included 10 years of public school and 20 years teaching the blind children, four years of which were at Oklahoma School for the Blind in Muskogee, and 16 at New York State School for the Blind in Batavia, New York, where she taught fourth-graders.

Verlon married Pandeli "Pete" Gioka and had a daughter, Joy Kathleen, and a son, Michael Pete, where they lived in Denver, Colorado, until Pete's passing. Verlon remarried to Anthony Cimino and they lived in Batavia until they retired and moved to Poteau, Oklahoma, then to Cumming, Georgia, where they lived until his passing. Verlon remained near her children and moved to Fort Myers, Florida, in 2003 with Joy and Doug, where she lived until her passing. Not one person met Verlon who didn't immediately become educated about the Choctaw Indians and her family history. She remained enthusiastic and proud of her American Indian heritage throughout her life.

She enjoyed playing piano into her 90s. She also enjoyed cooking, oil painting, gardening, home decorating, reading Tony Hillerman books, and being with her family, especially her grandchildren, Jeremy and Patrick Simpkins, Tia Coots, and Elisa and Erin Gioka; great-grandchildren, Tyler Coots and Ivey Doty; and niece, LaTrelle Holly and her family.

Brothers Jewel and Wayne Long and sisters Lucille Casdorf and Beulah Sharpe preceded her in death.

Dennis L. Harrison

Dennis L. Harrison passed away October 27, 2006. He was most recently a Church custodian for the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Salem. His passions included humanitarian work, landscaping, writing and personal growth.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, James Elmer Gatewood and Bertie Lorena Davis, and his father, Elbert Cecil Harrison.

Survivors include his beloved mother, Mozelle I. Gatewood of Talihina; sister, Shari K. Ruch and her husband, Jerry L. Ruch; brother, Cecil Harrison; five nieces and nephews, Debra G. Webb and her husband, Adrian, Robert J. Forzetting and his wife, Kelly, and Kimberly, Rick and Ron Harrison. Other surviving loved ones include Judith Steele and her children, Sydney and Will. Dennis adored his countless friends and his golden retriever, Maggie.



Stanley J. McDaniel

Stanley James McDaniel, 62, passed away October 12, 2006, after a valiant five-year battle with cancer. He was an inspiration and courageous example to all throughout his illness. His family and friends will cherish all the fond memories forever. He was born May 27, 1944, in Portland, Oregon, to Rex and Juanita McDaniel, the oldest of four siblings. Stan attended many schools and graduated from Mt. Whitney High School in Visalia, California, in 1962.

He served in the U.S. Army and attended Warner Pacific College in Portland prior to his career as a police officer in both Sacramento, California, and Portland. After retirement he and his wife, June, traveled the world with Youth with a Mission as missionaries. Later years were spent in the Caribbean; Port Ludlow, Washington; Mena, Arkansas; and finally back to his Choctaw Indian heritage roots in Canadian, Oklahoma. Stan was a man of many talents as family and friends can attest. His love of life and his tremendous faith in God guided him throughout his life and he was a friend to all who knew him. He was a dear son, loving husband, father, grandfather and friend that will be missed by all.

Survivors include his devoted wife and best friend of 28 years, June; daughter Jill Schuett and husband Mike of Oregon City, Oregon; son Marty of Oregon City; five grandchildren; parents Rex and Juanita of Tigard, Oregon; sister Donna Caldwell and husband Ronnie of Pendleton, Oregon; sister Patty Smith and husband Mike of Canby, Oregon; brother Danny McDaniel and wife Heather of Hilo, Hawaii; numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and many, many close friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

Elizabeth Grace Kay

Elizabeth Grace Kay, 91, passed away September 11, 2006, at the home of her daughter in Lindsay. She was born September 12, 1915, at Wallville to Albert and Fannie Willis Sumpter.

Mrs. Kay had been a lifetime resident of the area. She attended Hughes Schools and was married to Ira Luther "Babe" Kay on September 14, 1933, by a Justice of the Peace at Lindsay. Grace worked for many years as a health care provider. She enjoyed gardening, canning and possessed a great talent for making quilts. One year she and her quilting group made 200 quilts. Grace enjoyed playing dominoes and solitaire. She loved her Church, The Pentecostal church at Wallville, and taught Sunday School for 17 years. She loved her family and being near her children and grandchildren. The family expresses a special thanks to Loving Care Hospice for the care that they gave not only to Grace but also to her family for the past two and one-half years, so that she could remain at home.

Survivors include a son, Donald Kay and wife Linda of Wallville; daughter, Bobby Jean Kay of Lindsay; six grandchildren, Michael David Travis, PHD, German Scholar, and wife Lety, Stephen Ralph Travis, DVM, MD, and wife Denise, DVM, Margaret Ellen Travis, JD, and David Crane, Mary Ann Travis, JD, and Larry Hopkins, Jennifer Marie Kay and Janie Elizabeth Clark and husband Doyle; ten great-grandchildren, William Tyler Griffin Kay, Colton Donald Kay, Clarence Zachary Elijah Clark, Olivia Grace Clark, Kyle Luther Kay, Kalisa Marie Kay, Meagan Elizabeth Clark, Cydney Elizabeth Travis Crane, Jacob Daniel Travis Crane and Sabrina Travis.

She was preceded in death by her parents; the father of her children, Luther "Babe" Kay; and sister, Easel Kay.